

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Ten Days of Madness playwrighting festival

11–20 January
(Location varies)

The famous playwright George Bernard Shaw once stated, “You see things, and you say, ‘Why?’ But I dream of things that never were, and I say, ‘Why was I running naked through my high school with my attractive English teacher laughing at me?’” At least, he said something like that. But while Shaw didn’t realize his weird dream simply meant he may have been vulnerable and slightly bashful, you truly can realize your dream of becoming a great playwright like Shaw with the third annual Ten Days of Madness festival.

The merrymaking will include workshops for junior- and senior-high students by local playwrights such as Stewart Lemoine, presentations by guest playwrights, and a 24-hour playwright-a-thon.

Sonic Cubes

Art Gallery by Catherine Bechard and Sabin Hudon

Runs 11 January to 9 February
Latitude 53 (10248 106 Street)

Combining two popular artistic mediums—sound and three-dimensional geometric hexahedrons—this art display features a series of wooden cubes that make a variety of sounds when they are turned and shaken about.

Artists Bechard and Hudon, hailing from Montreal, showcase their interest in the auditory and visual aspects of perception, as well as their intrigue with acoustically produced sound, in their attempt to “make the anecdotal elements of our daily microcosm audible, creating a true environmental experience.” You can also meet the artists and discuss their love for creating microcosms by shaking noise-producing wood blocks at a talk on 12 January at 8pm.

Spread the Net Benefit Concert

Featuring *Change Methodical*, *Cassidy*, *Brian Toogood*, and *Letters to Elise*
Saturday, 12 January at 8pm
The Velvet Underground, 18+

While it may seem obvious that the purpose of a show called Spread the Net would be to raise awareness about the new and exciting phenomenon that is the Internet, after some exhaustive research, the concert turns out to be spreading awareness about the spread of malaria in third-world countries.

Headlined by local groups Change Methodical—a local do-it-yourself punk band with a sound similar to Hot Water Music—and Cassidy, who describe themselves as “punk-influenced indie-pop rock & roll,” all profits from the show go to spreadthenet.org, which donates bed nets to Africa and features a video by sponsors Rick Mercer and Belinda Stronach reading a heart-rending statement off a teleprompter.

George Carlin

Thursday, 17 January at 8pm
Jubilee Auditorium

Best known as the magical, diminutive conductor from *Shining Time Station* and Rufus from *Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure*, George Carlin brings his onstage comedy act and love for anthropomorphic steam trains to the Jubilee Auditorium.

Heralded by Comedy Central as the second greatest standup comedian in history (aside from Richard Pryor), Carlin is known for his particularly filthy brand of humour, particularly his famous “Seven Words You Can’t Say On Television” skit, which was central to several obscenity and First Amendment trials in the US Supreme Court in the ‘70s. The skit would likely warrant a mere 18A rating today.

JOHN KMECH
It’s a metaphor



40oz of family bonding in *Carlins*

Set in Mill Woods, the play offers a sobering take on alcohol, family, loss, and remembrance

theatrepreview

The Mighty Carlins

Runs 10–20 January

Written by Collin Doyle

Directed by Michael Clark

Starring John Wright, Fredrick Zbryski, and James Hamilton

3rd Space (11516 103 Street)

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

“An alcoholic father and his alcoholic sons get together to commemorate the death of their mother, who died of alcoholism.” It’s hard to imagine this premise as the backdrop for a comedy, but that’s exactly what *The Mighty Carlins* is striving for.

The Mighty Carlins introduces us to Leo Carlin and his two adult sons, Mike and Davie, who get together once a year on the anniversary of Mrs Carlin’s death. As with their other reunions, the men have a few beers (read: 48 or 50) and then spend the evening reminiscing (and then forgetting), arguing, and finally, bonding.

Director Michael Clark explains that while the play humorous, it’s also very powerful, as it tackles the sobering theme of alcoholism and the effect that this problem has on families.

For instance, Mike and Davie’s childhood was ruined by their parents’ alcoholism, and now they’re mad about it. Alcoholism is what killed their mother, leaving the home with nobody to provide the family with any kind of comfort.

The boys feel alienated and, as alcoholics, are unable to function normally. Mike is unemployed and always looking for the next get-rich-quick scheme; Davie is in a relationship with a suicidal woman, whom he’s afraid

to leave in case she kills herself.

“It’s a very challenging play. It’s a very funny play, but it deals with alcoholism straight on, so it’s full of unsavoury characters and kinda horrible things being said to people. So it’s kinda tough,” Clark says.

The Mighty Carlins won the Alberta Playwright’s Competition in 2004, garnering a positive reception during a reading that was part of the award. Despite this, it had never been professionally produced prior to this performance, partially due to the topic (and the accompanying rough language) of the piece.

“A family will try to hold together against all odds. [The family bond] imprints very strongly on you, regardless of what you do to change that.”

MICHAEL CLARK
MIGHTY CARLINS DIRECTOR

Clark says that he’s honoured to be the first person to professionally produce *The Mighty Carlins*. As artistic director of Workshop West Theatre, he follows the mandate of putting on new plays from Canadian playwrights.

“This is one of the legendarily unproduced plays,” he explains “I picked [*The Mighty Carlins*] because it’s a brilliant piece of writing that’s very funny, but also takes on a very serious social issue, which is the ravages that alcoholism has on a family.”

The Mighty Carlins is set right here in Edmonton—specifically Mill Woods. As such, part of the play’s message is intended to resonate with Edmontonians on another level.

It’s set to not only make audiences reconsider their own relationship with alcohol, but also make people rethink the stereotypes associated with the district.

“Part of the humour that’s in the play has to do with specific notions and misconceptions people have about Mill Woods, like that it’s ridden with gangs, and it’s scary and violent and stuff like that,” Clark explains. “In actual fact, Mill Woods is somewhere around 90 000 people as a neighbourhood, and if you took it out of Edmonton, it would be the 3rd largest city in the province.”

The Mighty Carlins was set in Mill Woods because that’s where playwright Collin Doyle grew up; the play could have really been set in any suburban community, as a lack of information has led to Mill Woods’ reputation as a scary and dangerous district of Edmonton.

“The madness of the play kinda contradicts the pastoral nature of Mill Woods,” Clark says.

“The things that people know about Mill Woods is there’s a pool, you can’t ever find your way through it, it has a very large East Indian community, and there have been a few drive-by shootings there,” he continues. “In actual fact, there have been drive-by shootings in many neighbourhoods in Edmonton, but for some reason, it’s really stuck on Mill Woods.”

While alcohol certainly has had its ravages on Leo, Mike and Davie, the family bond exerts an equally strong influence on the men. Davie organizes the reunion each year because he desperately wants them to be a family, as dysfunctional as it is. So the play does come with some hope attached.

“A family will try to hold together against all odds. [The family bond] imprints very strongly on you, regardless of what you do to change that,” Clark says, of the play’s message.

No paying audience wins versus *Alien vs Predator 2*

filmreview

Alien vs Predator: Requiem

Now Playing
Directed by the Brothers Strause
Starring Steven Pasquale, Reiko Aylesworth, and John Ortiz

CONAL PIERSE
Opinion Editor

There are some movies that are so incredibly horrible that you can't help but enjoy them—movies like *Starship Troopers* that attain a level of awful so dumbfounding that you find yourself grinning stupidly and drooling a bit because your brain stepped out back for a smoke. And then there are the ones that are just plain bad. *Aliens vs Predator: Requiem* falls into this latter category.

Truth be told, it really is my fault for going to this movie. I had no business seeing the sequel of what was essentially Paul WS Anderson taking a shit in my bed. But I figured that this would be a chance for a franchise that has such great potential to redeem itself, much in the same way that *Batman Begins* made up for George Clooney and his rubber nipples.

The horrible previews ensure that the movie begins where the last one left off—with you being frustrated and confused—and then proceeds to get worse. Essentially, the story is that a Predator ship crashes somewhere in small town America, and an indeterminate number of facehuggers escape into the wilderness to impregnate hobos and children alike. One of



the predators manages to send a distress call to their home planet, which prompts the predator equivalent of Mr Clean—complete with magical body-dissolving blue liquid-gel—to come to earth and sort shit out in a rather Amelia Bedelia-like fashion.

The initial plot has the same forced and unnecessary feeling as the lead-in to a porno, and is as clunky as if a glazed ham was dipped into a bag of clichés, and whatever stuck was used. Character development is entirely non-existent, making it seem like characters were introduced simply to

be killed—especially the black characters, who all fail to survive more than two minutes of screen time. I honestly don't think I could name a single character if I tried. They also don't even bother using stock action-movie characters, as can be seen when the “cute girl-next-door with a jerk boyfriend” turns out to actually be kind of a whore who the “misunderstood bad-boy” isn't really going to miss.

The pacing is schizophrenic and as awkward as a man with a club-foot being chased by a pack of

dogs. Whereas the *Alien* and *Predator* franchises were geared towards the constant fear of the monster coming, *AVP: Requiem* was simply far too impatient. It tried its hardest to hang on and build suspense, but darn it if they didn't have the willpower of a seasoned veteran and showed them too early every time. In fact, the only time they failed to show the alien or predator was in the climactic final fight, which was nothing more than a close up of dreadlocks being flung around in the rain at night.

Perhaps the greatest problem with

the movie, however, was its inability to decide what, exactly, it wanted to be. It floated between being a serious (but brainless) action film and going for camp value but, much like a wader not wanting to get their nipples wet, refused to take the plunge. As a result, you aren't really sure how they want you to react, which makes the quotes like “Get to the chopper!” and “It's a trap!” cringe-worthy. Granted, the film is better than its predecessor, but still isn't worth anything more than a curiosity rental—and even then, you won't want to be the one that paid for it.

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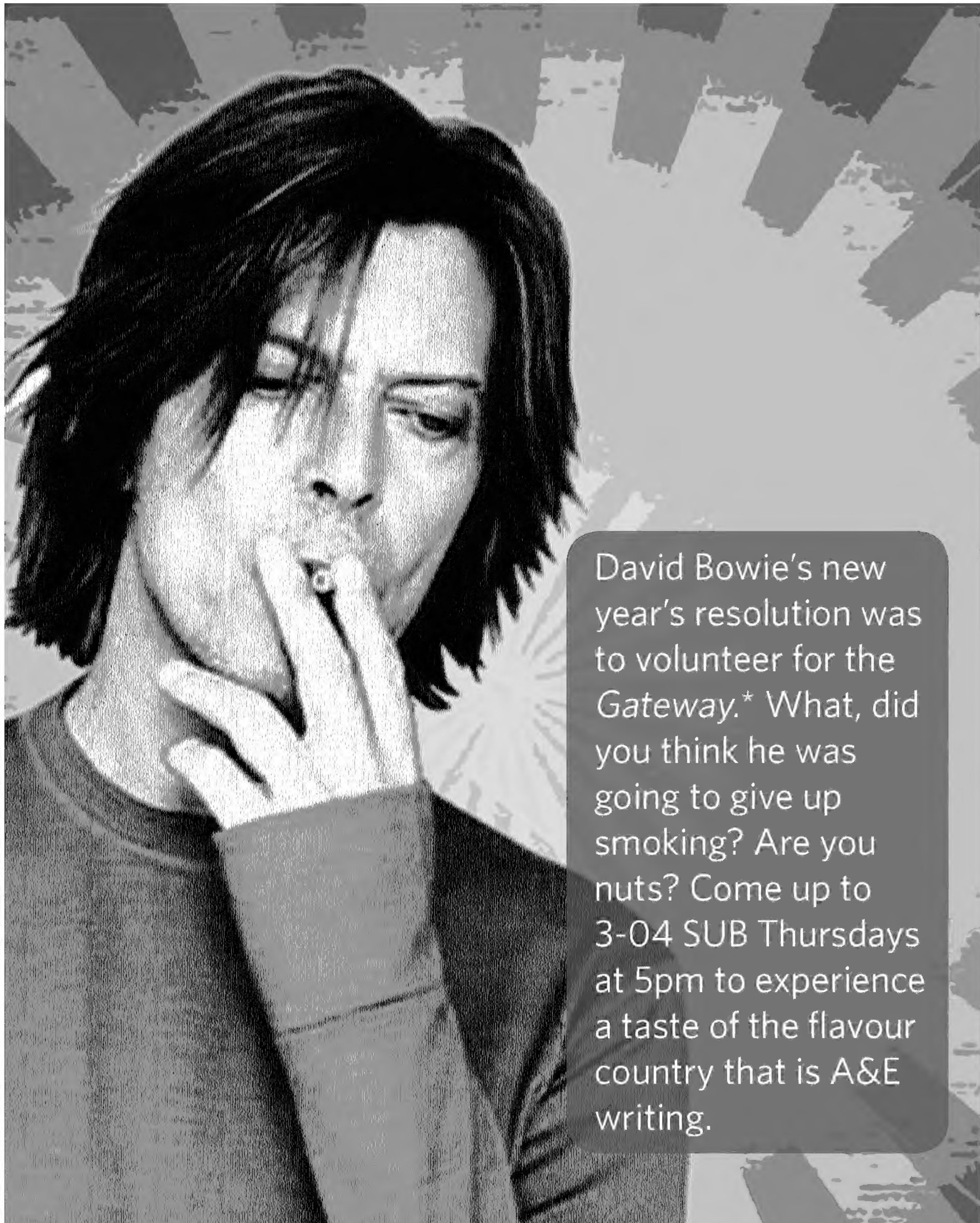
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David Bowie's new year's resolution was to volunteer for the Gateway.* What, did you think he was going to give up smoking? Are you nuts? Come up to 3-04 SUB Thursdays at 5pm to experience a taste of the flavour country that is A&E writing.

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*I seriously doubt his resolution was to write for us. But one can always hope. And smoking's bad for you. Like, really bad.

The best of what's to come in '08: a monster, a joker, and *Macbeth*

PAUL
BLINOVA&E
Commentary

Although we're just ten days into 2008, it's already shaping up to be a pretty good year in the world of arts and entertainment. Not only is our usually strong theatre community raising its own bar with a revamped 2007 hit and some classic Shakespeare, but it looks like we're getting a hefty helping of good touring bands, too. There's even a number of exciting movies, which is great, given last year's over-stuffed platter of sequels and crap. Here's what's tickling our fancy so far in the next twelve months:

THEATRE

FRANKENSTEIN (2-24 FEBRUARY, CATALYST THEATRE SOCIETY)

After a year of awards and massive critical acclaim, it seems only natural that the cast and crew of *Frankenstein* would want to take the show out for a victory lap. Based on the 1818 Mary Shelly novel, *Frankenstein* follows the title character's monster—often mistakenly referred to Frankenstein itself—as it's artificially brought to life on the haunting, dreamlike set.

This touring production managed to score eight Sterling Awards, so if you missed it the first time around, now's your chance to say you caught one of the best shows to hit

Edmonton in recent years.

WHILE WE'RE YOUNG (7-16 FEBRUARY, TIMMS CENTRE)

Penned specifically for the 2008 BFA class by Don Hannah, the U of A's inaugural Lee Playwright-in-Residence, *While We're Young* explores the transition from youth to adulthood.

Spread across more than a century of time and numerous locations, the script laces six threads of plot together into one interconnecting ensemble piece that celebrates adulthood in the centennial year of the University itself.

MACBETH (9 February-2 March, Citadel Theatre)

Don't ask for it by name, at least not in a theatre—it's bad luck. Shakespeare's immortal script is being put on at the Citadel, tracing the Icarus-like downfall of Macbeth and his wife as they plot to murder their way into royal power.

Under the watchful eye of Peter Hinton, the National Art Centre English Theatre Company's artistic director, *Macbeth* seeks to keep the age-old script fresh. Plus, the poster has three really creepy looking children in matching clothes and haircuts. Unsettling.

MOVIES

CLOVERFIELD (18 JANUARY)

PR companies looking for ways to market new movies need to remember the age-old mantra of "less is more."

JJ Abrams remembered: *Cloverfield* created a ravenous amount of publicity with the unexplained, nameless trailer that first appeared this summer.

Of course, more details have emerged since then, aside from the title; it's a Godzilla-style monster movie shot with a hand-held camera, detailing an underwater beast's assault on New York through the eyes of a group of friends. Sounds badass.

BE KIND, REWIND (FEBRUARY)

Jack Black plays a junkyard worker who erases every video in a local store while unknowingly charged with a magnetic field. In an attempt to cover it up, he makes low-budget versions of the movies with his video store employee friend (played by Mos Def). The knock-offs are a hit, but attract unwanted attention for violating copyright laws.

Michael Gondry wrote and directed the picture himself, and anyone who thinks the plot is too outlandish needs to direct their attention to both *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and the White Stripes' lego-infused video for "Fell in Love with a Girl"—both of which belong to Gondry. He can dream up and handle these extremes, people.

THE DARK KNIGHT (SUMMER)

After *Batman Begins* saved the entire franchise from the overly campy waste of time it had become, its sequel is looking to set the bar even higher. Christian Bale reprises the role of caped crusader, while Aaron Eckhart picks up Two Face, and Heath Ledger



embodies the Joker.

To prepare for the role, Ledger spent a month alone in a hotel room developing the mind, body, and voice of his twisted character, and there's already a growing buzz that his twisted performance more than trumps Jack Nicholson's 1989 Joker.

MUSIC

WINTERSLEEP (15 FEBRUARY, STARLITE ROOM)

Who cares if they were here just a few months ago; to paraphrase the immortal words of *Zoolander*'s Mugatu: "Wintersleep's so hot right now."

The Halifax-born six-piece have been more than making a name for themselves since the release of their third album, *Welcome to the Night Sky*. Plus the constant touring—and opening up for Pearl Jam—probably haven't hurt their popularity, either.

HAWKSLEY WORKMAN (24 MARCH, WINSPEAR CENTRE)

Last time Edmonton saw Mr Workman, it was in McDougall United Church—just him, guitar, and Mr Lonely on piano accompaniment. The appearance wasn't part of a tour—he just wanted to do a show.

This time around, however, Hawksley's coming to town in support of a fresh spread of tunes: January will see the release of his latest album, *Between the Beautifuls*.

FOO FIGHTERS (28 MARCH, REXALL PLACE)

Dave Grohl just won't die; hell, he'll barely slow down. It's almost sad that the Foo Fighter's younger generation of fans probably don't even realize that the guy drummed in a little band called Nirvana first. Oh well.

Grohl will lead his enduring pop-rock band through new songs, some old classics, and almost certainly a sing-along rendition of "Everlong."



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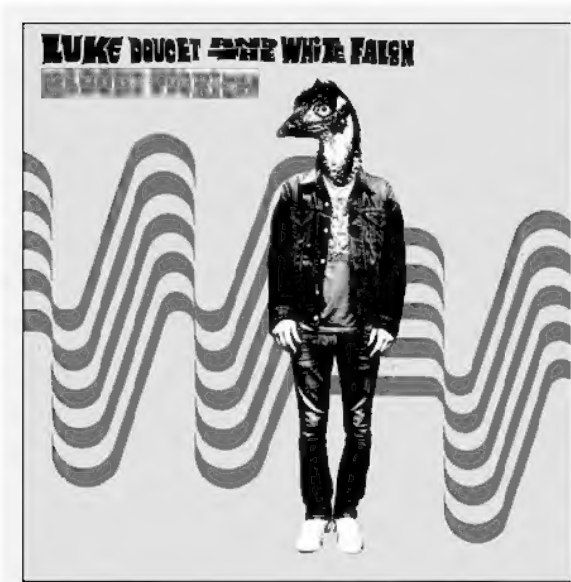
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featuredalbum

Luke Doucet
Blood's Too Rich
Six Shooter Records

KATHLEEN BELL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Blood's Too Rich feels like a series of character sketches laid down side by side for the listener's perusal. The drifter, the long haul driver, and the stranger on the barstool are all seen through the eyes of a travelling musician and are all clearly scratched out with the sympathy of a man who shares the same wanderlust.

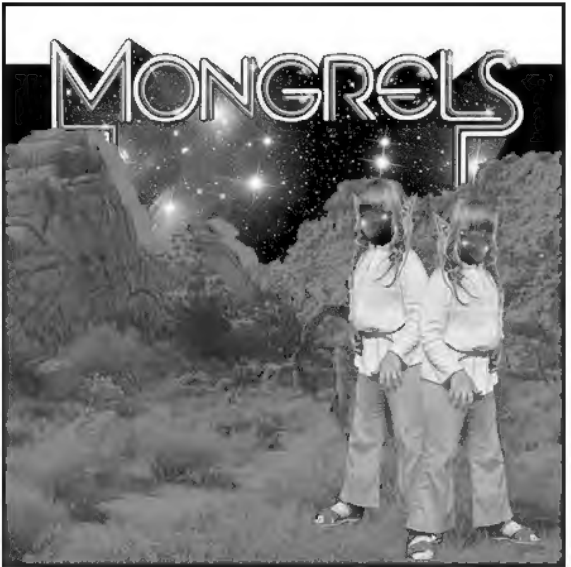
Luke Doucet proves himself an expert at evoking personas—be it his own or that of other road

eccentrics—in succinct lines like “my blood's too rich for subway cars / And I'm too poor for a cab,” or “he said he was a guitar man / He used to play with Bob Dylan.”

These compassionate vignettes are backed by Doucet's classic Nashvillian guitar playing and the occasional wide and wandering electric guitar solo. Riding shotgun are the White Falcons, a band that adds lightly brushed snare beats, deep steady

bass, and salty background vocals by wife—and talented singer/songwriter in her own right—Melissa McClelland. Lots of other players (Jim Cuddy, for example) get on and off at different stops along the way, contributing trumpet, piano, and vocals for the ensemble feel that any good road story requires.

The biggest problem with *Blood's Too Rich* is that it shouldn't be released in January. It should have shown up in the middle of a long, dusty heat wave sometime in late July, since Doucet's cool guitar picking goes down like a tall glass of sweet lemonade—maybe with a little added kick. Unfortunately, it's still hot chocolate season. But you can always add *Blood's Too Rich* to your collection and wait until global warming kicks in.



albumreview

Mongrels
Oshawa
Weirdbeard Records

SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

“Mongrel” is a general term used for an animal of mixed breed. Mongrels more than live up to this name with their debut album, *Oshawa*. Imagine a hot musical ménage-a-trois between funk, soul, and rock, spawning to create a sound similar to but not quite like any of its parent genres, and you almost have Mongrels.

The band itself is a jigsaw of

borrowed members from other popular Montreal rock acts, including Local Rabbits, Bliss, Soft Canyon, and Juno-nominated Tricky Woo, who lend lead guitarist Andrew Dickson. This six piece, female-fronted group boasts not one but two drummers, a sexy mix of '70s-inspired guitar riffs, and powerful vocals courtesy of frontwoman Amy Turok, also

know as Amy Dynamite. “Needs Got Needs” opens with a healthy dose of cowbell glides, perfectly into the high energy “Set Me Free,” and ends with “Contemplating the Wizard,” which has guitar solos nastier than the urinals at a truck stop. *Oshawa* is an album that demands to be played loud and sounds better with each decibel increase.

As enjoyable as this release is, it hovers just below the 40 minute mark—a terrible tease. Despite being short, all eight tracks are exceptionally solid; there's not a weak one in the bunch. Overall, this album is a sweet, psychedelic rock candy treat, with multicolored sprinkles that will please your ears without rotting your teeth.



albumreview

In Its Wake
In Its Wake
Independent

DAVID JOHNSTON
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Well, this is certainly weird. Normally when an album's chucked onto my lap and 300 words are demanded, I end up hating the artists, their songs, their studio, and their instruments with a fiery passion. But what's this? Can it be that I'm actually enjoying the first track on *In Its Wake's* self-titled debut EP? No! The music is filling my cold black heart!

In Its Wake are a small up-and-coming Toronto pop/rock band, self-produced and self-recorded, with songs written

by lead singer Jamie Nudds and guitarist Ernie Meggison. The big shock, though, is that their music is actually quite good. The band works together quite well and manages to pull together seven very listenable do-it-yourself tracks. They have enough smarts to open with their best effort, “Need to Breathe,” and by the time you get to “Unbelievable,” I defy you to not be dancing down the sidewalk. It's infectious.

They're not perfect, however—far from it. Being a young band, they take a

variety of musical choices and toss them around, trying them on for size. They jump around so much that they seem almost afraid of running out of stylistic choices. Likewise, Nudds needs to pick a voice and sing with it: on “Beneath the Waves” and “Give My Regards,” he sounds like he's purposefully trying to sing with a faked speech impediment. This not only distracts from the music, but recalls horrible images in my brain of how Dustin Hoffman destroyed *Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium*.

But if these are the biggest quibbles that can be raised, then *In Its Wake* has produced a very successful debut disc. I'm apprehensive as to whether they can stretch their talent over a full album, but they've gotten my attention enough to want to check them out. And that is their greatest achievement of all—even better than using a cowbell as an instrument and not coming off as pretentious or Texan.



albumreview

Kenna
Make Sure They See My Face
Interscope Records

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

A first glance at Kenna's album cover suggests that the music might be creepy, bloody, or Satanic; it's some sort of death metal, perhaps, judging by the dripping red ink on the cover. But when *Make Sure They See My Face* starts playing, the music that emerges is thankfully alternative rock.

However, this fact isn't immediately obvious when the album first track starts to spin; it starts off with a minute-long intro to the first song, “Daylight.” That isn't bad in itself, except that this intro consists of instrumentals pointlessly overshadowed by an odd,

static-like noise. When the intro is finally over, the rock music begins; unfortunately, the singer's poor articulation of the lyrics does nothing to improve the song. “Daylight” isn't exactly an appealing way to start this album.

Things don't get better after that. Several of the songs rely on very repetitive lyrics, beats, and melodies. Repeating the phrase “Out of Control” probably takes up more than three of the four minutes in the track of the same name. In “Phantom Always,” the lyrics are both repetitive and

poorly enunciated, and even the poor articulation of words starts to feel repetitive by this point. “Sun Red Sky Blue” almost does us a favour by drowning out the vocals with some very strong instrumentals; however, Kenna just ends up yelling over the background, straining his voice in the process.

Just as one might take random things and throw them into the back of a truck, this CD takes random odd noises, background effects, and spoken words and tosses them into its songs. For instance, “Loose Wires/ Blink Radio” concludes with a bizarre spoken conversation that appears out of nowhere. In retrospect, it might be an effective way to conclude this song; after all, this piece does feature background singers who call out random words using a vocal timbre that's about as annoying as fingernails on a chalkboard.

Don't waste your time on this trainwreck of a CD.

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Get back in the game

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Our mid-season update will catch you up on everything you've missed

PANDAS HOCKEY

"We're going to win a national championship."

Pandas hockey coach Howie Draper doesn't equivocate. His team won the CIS championships last year, and he fully intends to repeat. Though he's missing some of the best players from last year—including 2007 Marion Hillard Award winner Taryn Barry and 2007 CIS Player of the Year Lindsay McAlpine—Draper's probably not being overly optimistic, either. Currently the second-ranked team in CIS, the Pandas are dominating the Canada West conference.

The season so far has had some low points. In early November, the Pandas lost in their home rink for the first time since October 2000, and UBC replicated the feat two weeks later. But Alberta was soon on an upswing again, and they haven't lost a conference game since.

Also lending weight to Draper's prediction is that the Pandas have already shown themselves to be up to the level of the best teams in the country. Over Christmas they played McGill and Wilfred Laurier, first and third respectively. Alberta beat McGill and lost 3-2 to Laurier.

"We've got the ability; we played the top

two teams in the league when we were in Guelph, and we've shown that we can compete against them," Draper said.

Of course, his high expectations are predicated on the team's continued improvement.

"Our three next weekends of play are against teams that have proven to be highly competitive, so we have to continue to get better," he said. "There's a lot of areas that I think our consistency isn't exactly where it needs to be in order for us to be successful in reaching our goals."

—Robin Collum

PANDAS BASKETBALL

The hoops Pandas defied expectations last year by going all the way to the national final with a new coach and only one fifth-year player. Accordingly, all eyes have been on them this year to see if they can repeat that success.

Having cracked the national top ten this year—they're currently in fifth spot—the Pandas (9-3) are certainly on track to do some damage in the post-season. Forward Kristin Jarock thinks another national appearance is feasible for her team, but that it's hardly a sure thing.

"I definitely think we have the potential, but it's going to take a lot of hard work. It's definitely not going to be as easy as it was last year because we have a target on [our] back."

The Pandas' schedule in the new year is fairly mixed: wins are nearly assured against teams like Lethbridge, Winnipeg, and Trinity Western, but Alberta will have to be in top form when they face Saskatchewan—who handed them one loss already this year—UBC, and Simon Fraser. The SFU match, a home game, may well turn out to be the hardest match they face this whole regular season. It will be a rematch of last year's national final in St John's: SFU beat the Pandas 72-68.

PANDAS VOLLEYBALL

On the face of it, it might seem that the Pandas volleyball team (7-3, in fifth place in Canada West) has had a weaker-than-usual start to the season. But head coach Laurie Eisler is happy with where her team sits so far and positive about what the rest of the season holds.

The Pandas have a lot to be optimistic about. They have a balanced, talented roster led by a strong core of returning players.

"I think we feel like we're on track and we're doing the things we need to do to contend, and that's all you can really ask for at this point," Eisler said. "But there's a lot of work left to be done. We're far from any sense of satisfaction; we're more focused on what's ahead of us right now, which is the University of Winnipeg."

The Pandas take on Winnipeg next weekend on the road, after a bye weekend that will allow them to recover from the sweep they just suffered against Calgary. The Pandas only have three home weekends left in the season, but they

include matches against Alberta's biggest rivals: the University of Manitoba and UBC.

The Pandas strength as a team comes from their depth and well-roundedness.

"I don't think there's any part of our game that we rely on heavily, and I don't think there's any member of our team that we rely on heavily," Eisler said. "It's a nice balanced system and approach to the game."

Eisler hopes that the the Pandas will be able to repeat last year's national-championship win.

"[Our goal] is to win—it always is. You don't embark on something like this otherwise, and I think set the bar high and go after it. I can't think of any single reason why we shouldn't think we can do it."

"I think we have an experienced lineup but also experience with winning. I think those attributes will start to show themselves more as the season goes."

—Robin Collum

BEARS HOCKEY

Boasting a 13-3-0 record, the top spot in Canada West, and a lead in almost every major Canada West statistical category, the Bears will be looking to repeat the sweeps they executed over most of the teams in their conference in the first half.

The Bears' biggest challenge will come during the last week of conference play,

where they will be looking to avenge being swept by UBC earlier in the season as they battle the Thunderbirds under the lights at Clare Drake Arena.

While the players themselves are already looking strong, expect those performances to continue into the second half. Golden Bears players currently own half of the spots in Canada West's top-ten scoring list with forwards Eric Hunter, Tim Krymusa, Ian McDonald and Dylan Stanley, as well as defenseman Harlan Anderson, leading the charge.

The Bears defence has received a boost with the return of blueliner Kyle Fecho, who missed the first half of the season after sustaining a knee injury in a car accident this past summer. On the defensive side of the ice, goaltender (and Oiler-for-a-day) Aaron Sorochan continues to shut down the opposition, having played twelve of Alberta's 13 conference victories, and will continue to be one of the strongest goaltenders in the country.

—Nick Frost

BEARS BASKETBALL

It's going to be a tough second half for the Bears basketball team (8-4). The U of A will face some of the strongest competition in the conference between now and the division playoffs, and with only four home games left after this past weekend's split against Calgary, the Bears will be fighting for second place in the Central division in other people's gyms.

Though Calgary has a probable lock on first place in the division, there's only two points separating Alberta from Saskatchewan. The second-place finisher gets the home court advantage when playoffs come around.

"We want to hopefully beat

Saskatchewan at home and go into Calgary and play of best-two-out-of-three Central division final," Bears coach Don Horwood said.

For that to happen, the Bears will have to get the most out of their best players: guard Alex Steele has been consistent in his playmaking and high scoring as expected, and a number of others have been showing improvement, many of whom are having their best seasons so far. It will also help that point guard CG Morrison is back in the lineup.

"I think we have a lot of guys who are contributing and can contribute, [but] right now, they don't all seem to be going at the same time," Horwood said. "Obviously, our goal is to have all our players playing at their peak level or close to it in the key games."

—Robin Collum

BEARS

VOLLEYBALL

The Golden Bears volleyball team (9-1) has successfully taken on almost every team in Canada West, not to mention some of the best NCAA Division I teams in exhibition games. So it's not too far of a stretch to expect that Alberta will once again make it to the CIS championships, for what would be the seventh straight year. Last year, the U of A lost in five sets to the Winnipeg Wesmen in the final, and Winnipeg is the only team to beat the Bears so far this season.

But while the Bears

aren't willing to take anything for granted, they're still cautiously optimistic.

"I think we're quite happy with where we are right now," assistant coach Dale Johns said. "We realize that obviously it's only halfway and that things get tougher as we get closer to the end of the regular season and into playoffs, but I think we're all looking at the right things right now, and we know we need to improve in certain areas."

"Once you make it to nationals, then it's anyone's. When you get there, the team that puts three good games back-to-back-to-back ends up winning, and that's basically all you can hope for—just to get there—and then, hopefully, you can be playing your best at that time."

The Bears have an extremely strong starting line, including three fifth-years, but they also have a bench that could beat a lot of the teams in Canada West by themselves. Players to watch out for this year include Joel Schmuland, Thomas Jarmoc, Adam Kaminski, and Brock Pehar.

—Robin Collum

File photos (from top): Shaun Mott, Mike Otto, Stu Trebelco



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

WRAPAROUND CITY After a busy break and a weekend series in Saskatoon, the Pandas will face Regina this weekend.

Ice Pandas look to stop Cougars

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The Pandas hockey team has one of the most feared offences in Canada West: almost all of their lines can pose a scoring threat on a good night, they routinely put up four or five goals in a game, and they've helped propel U of A to second in the CIS rankings.

But according to head coach Howie Draper, they're trying to beef up their defence as they head into a weekend series at home against Regina and making sure that they're always at the top of their game.

"We're still working on improving our consistency as a team," he said. "I think in particular we want to be better defensively, and we know that Regina is going to be challenging us in our own end, so that's something that we want to pay attention to."

"Regina's got a fast team, and they definitely do have some offensive talent. It's all about going back to defence. We have to make sure that we're up to the

task in terms of making sure that we're controlling the middle of the ice and in front of our of the net."

Central to neutralizing Regina's threat will be goalie Dana Vinge. The second-year netminder has played Alberta's last four games, and Draper is extremely pleased with her performances.

"Our goaltending has been outstanding," he said. "She's been stellar, in my opinion. I think she's doing exactly what she knows that she can do."

Alberta is coming off a two-game series against the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. They beat the Huskies 3-2 on Friday night and 4-1 the next one. The week before, the Pandas were in Guelph for the Gryphons Invitational Tournament, where they beat the top team in the country, McGill, as well as the host team, but lost to Wilfred Laurier, who are ranked third in CIS.

Draper is glad his team has those recent games under their belts going into this weekend.

"We feel that those two weekends

were necessary to just get back to where we were in the first half," he said. "Everyone's feeling relatively healthy, and they've managed to work the turkey out of their legs, so now it's just a matter of getting back to business."

"Saskatchewan has been playing really well, but maybe the thing that Regina has is that they've got a few players that are a little more capable of putting the puck away, so we've just got to be that much more diligent in defense."

For her part, Regina head coach Sarah Howald said her team relishes the chance to take on the top team in Canada West.

"We're a fairly skilled team—we've got some skilled forwards and good goaltending—and we enjoy playing the U of A because they are as well," she said. "As always, they should be good games. They are a good team, and I think our players enjoy the challenge of playing them."

The Pandas play Cougars at 7pm in Clare Drake on Friday and Saturday.

Young wrestling team has room to grow

Though inexperienced, Alberta's grapplers are ambitious and hard-working

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Most coaches shy away from the term "rebuilding," afraid that it will imply weakness or lack of talent on their team. But when U of A wrestling coach Vang Ioannides says it about his Pandas team, he means it: after losing most of his athletes at once a few years ago, Ioannides has a roster full of gifted rookies, and he's slowly building them up to dominate Canada West in a few years.

"We're still attempting to rebound from the very strong teams that we graduated out in about 2005," he said, expressing faith that this crop of rookies could soon be a real threat. "We now have a core of people who I think can start to do that, but we won't be able to do it at the drop of a hat."

The Bears don't have much more than the Pandas in terms of veteran athletes, either. They only have one fifth-year, captain Bram Ratay.

Consequently, Ioannides is pragmatic in his expectations for the year

in terms of tournament results. He expects the men to be among the better Canada West teams, but that breaking into the lead pack nationally will be a difficult feat.

"We'll qualify guys for CIS [championships] as we always do; our men are perennially in the top ten," he said. "It might be harder to do that this year. Any other year, no problem, but in our conference this year, it'll be harder. We'll be looking for some of our men to break out early."

Ioannides' goal for the Pandas' season is more modest because he has his sights set more on their long-term progress than short-term success.

"A top-ten [CIS] finish would be a pie-in-the-sky goal," he said. "It's feasible eventually, but this is not the year we set the world on fire."

The Pandas and Bears have just returned from San Diego, where they conducted their winter training camp.

"We worked on new techniques and ways to wrestle," first-year Meaghan Young said. "We worked on our

physical conditioning, but also our mental preparedness, to get tougher both physically and mentally."

Alberta will get their first chance to test out what they practiced in California this weekend, when they host the Golden Bear Open tournament. A combined varsity and open meet, it will give the U of A's athletes plenty of competition. Over the course of the weekend, each wrestler could get up to nine matches.

Ratay is looking forward to the chance to show what he and his teammates can do.

"This is my last year, and I hope to shine a bit," he said. "We've got some younger guys and people who don't have much experience all coming together."

"We don't have much veteran leadership, but we have lots of ambition, and we're excited about the rest of the season."

The varsity matches take place in the Pavilion on Friday starting at 5pm. Open events begin at 10am on Saturday morning.

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GATEWAY SPORTS

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Snow Fling warms up trackletes

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The Golden Bears and Pandas track teams are taking baby steps into the beginning of their season so that they can succeed at the leaps and bounds required next weekend when competition begins in earnest. The U of A sent only part of their roster to a recent early-season meet in Saskatoon and are warming up for the more serious Golden Bear Open (GBO) next week by hosting this Sunday's Snow Fling meet.

"It's just a little prep meet that we put together to start the year," Alberta head coach Georgette Reed said. "Because our big meet is the following weekend, we use it more as a tune-up, and other teams use it as a tune-up as well."

The Snow Fling, though primarily a friendly practice event with athletes ranging from elementary school to masters competition as well as CIS competitors, will be a chance for the Pandas and Bears to seriously assess their own progress and work out any kinks they noticed at the Varsity Duel in Saskatoon.

There, Alberta met teams from the University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba, and University of Calgary. Though the U of A sent mainly rookies to Saskatchewan, they still performed well. Reed was encouraged by the weekend's results, and believes it bodes well for the rest of the season.

"The competition is always strong: the University of Saskatchewan is always strong; the University of Calgary is still fairly strong. However, we're fairly strong too," she said. "[U of C], [U of S], and the University of Manitoba all had a lot of their top CIS runners there, and we didn't have hardly any of ours, [but] we still fared



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

HIGH HOPES The Bears and Pandas will show their skill at this weekend's meet.

within a few points in each of the duel matches against them, and one of the duel matches we won.

"If that's how well we can do without our potential CIS and Canada West competitors in the mix, I think we're going to be one of the stronger teams to beat [in Canada West]."

Reed has high hopes that her athletes will be able to go all the way and make a mark at nationals, hosted by this year by McGill.

"I really wholeheartedly believe that the Pandas can win Canada West, and that the men will be in the top two," she said. "In CIS, I think both teams could have a top-six result."

For that to happen, Reed will be

counting on strong seasons from both veterans, such as throwers Matt Doherty—who has already qualified for nationals based on his Saskatoon results—and Jenilee Way, and rookies like Matthew Cardoza, a long and high jumper with "phenomenal talent" who she predicts will be the best in the country if not this year then next.

"Between the tune-up meet this weekend and with the GBO coming up next weekend, I think we're going to see some really good performances and hopefully set the tone for Canada West finals a month later," Reed said.

The Snow Fling begins at 12pm in the Pavilion on Sunday.

There's just not enough blood for both

When watching sports, it's an epic battle between the brain and the bratwurst

MARC
AFFELD



Sports
Commentary

For the past year or so my brain and my penis have been engaged in a prolonged game of chess, à la *Seinfeld*, to decide whether or not I should continue to watch professional sports on television. While I maintain that watching sports isn't an inherently anti-intellectual pursuit, it seems as if every time I sit down on the couch to watch a game, my TV is yelling at me and undermining my ability to focus on one thing for more than three seconds.

While my brain was ready to sit down to start enjoying the most rewarding month of sports viewing of the year this October, it was blindsided by a penis-led attack: an ad for TBS's coverage of the MLB playoffs that featured "comedian" Dane Cook. Although I was already tuned in to watch the first series of games, MLB decided it was necessary to hire Dane Cook to shout "There's only one October" at me. My wang was intrigued. My testosterone wanted me to laugh at his pronunciation of "October" and high-five my non-existent frat-buddy friends for absolutely no reason—but my brain knew better. It knew that this was just

MLB making an attempt to attract the ever-important barely-literate myspace junkie demographic.

This wasn't an isolated incident. Earlier in the year, the NBA made the perplexing decision to hire street wizard David Blaine to hock television coverage of their playoffs. This confuses me not only because of David Blaine's creepy monotone delivery and eyes that are as dead as those of the shark from *Jaws*, but mostly by the thought that there are actually people out there who are willing take up an interest in professional basketball for the sole reason that a man who successfully fools twelve-year-olds for a living told them to. My brain was stunned and disoriented, but the chess match continued.

Dane Cook and Jessica Simpson are ruining professional sports.

I think, however, the exact moment my penis checkmated my brain occurred on 16 December while I was watching the Philadelphia Eagles defeat the underwhelming Dallas Cowboys—the Jessica Simpson Game. Don't get me wrong, I can see the appeal in repeatedly focusing the camera on one of America's favorite pairs of, *ahem*, acting talents. But there is also clear reasoning behind the NFL trying to draw in a non-football-loving audience by

creating some sort of celebrity relationship scandal—something I hope Tony Romo's fans are proud of. But doesn't the League care that the actual outcome of the game is taking a secondary role to news that there is apparently a feud on between Terrell Owens and the third-most talented star of *Employee of the Month*? The League might have been welcoming the added press coverage, but my brain decided that this was the last straw.

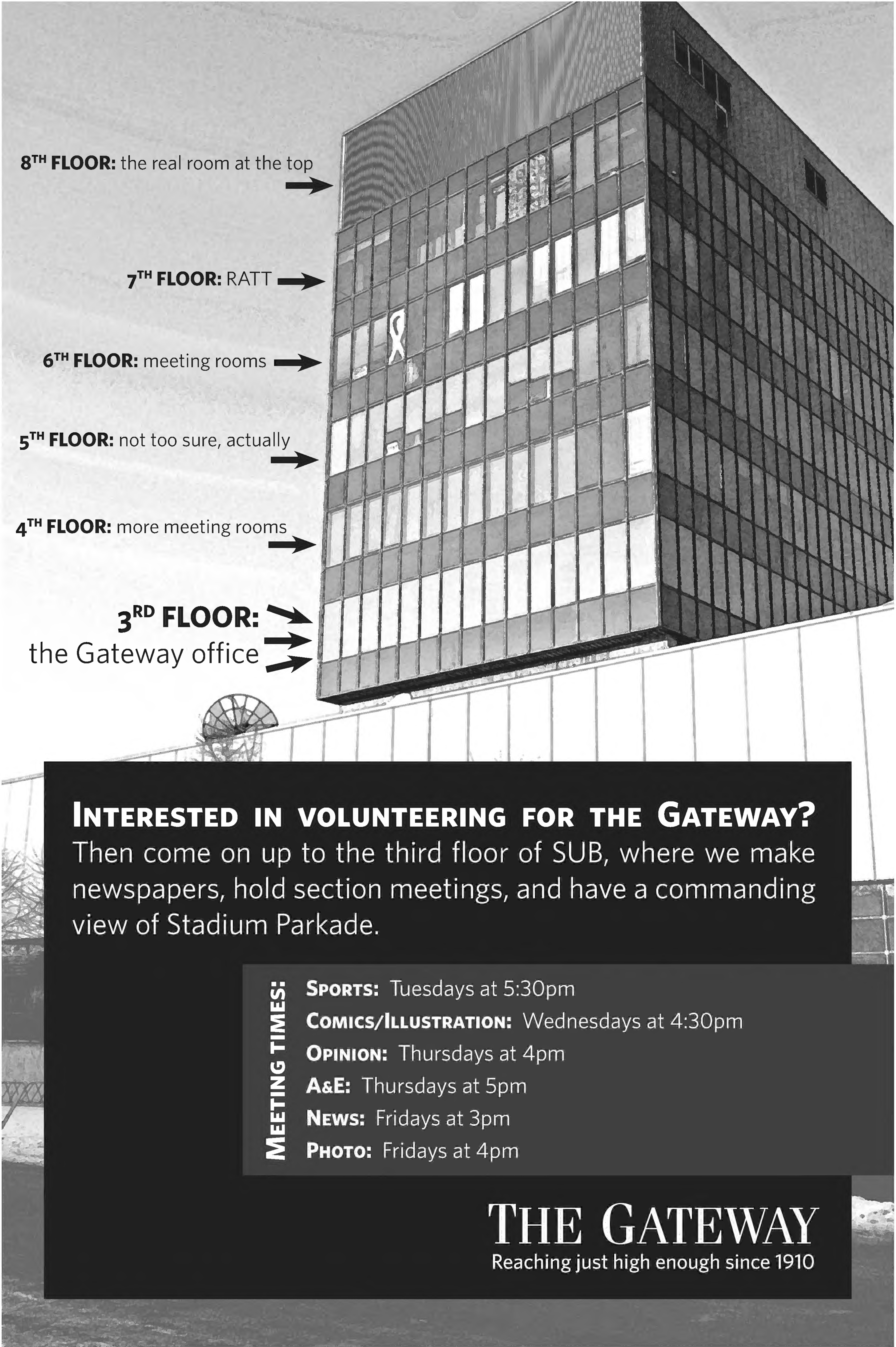
Dane Cook and Jessica Simpson are ruining professional sports. Watching it on television is not only demanding less and less thought, but demanding it more and more loudly. The line between sports and sports entertainment is becoming increasingly blurry.

If I want to see annoying assholes shout useless catchphrases and attractive, scantily-clad blondes in a sports-like setting, I'd just as soon switch the channel over to professional wrestling—though truthfully, I'd rather cover myself in broken glass.

Instead of allowing my penis to defeat my brain at a metaphorical game of chess and continuing to watch sports on TV while devoting my full mental capacity to things like Political Science 419 and tying my shoes, I'll make a change. My brain needs a break from the constant barrage of insults it has had to it's endured in the past year. My sports fix for the next while will have to come in the form of customizable Internet news feeds and vastly under-rated live varsity sports.

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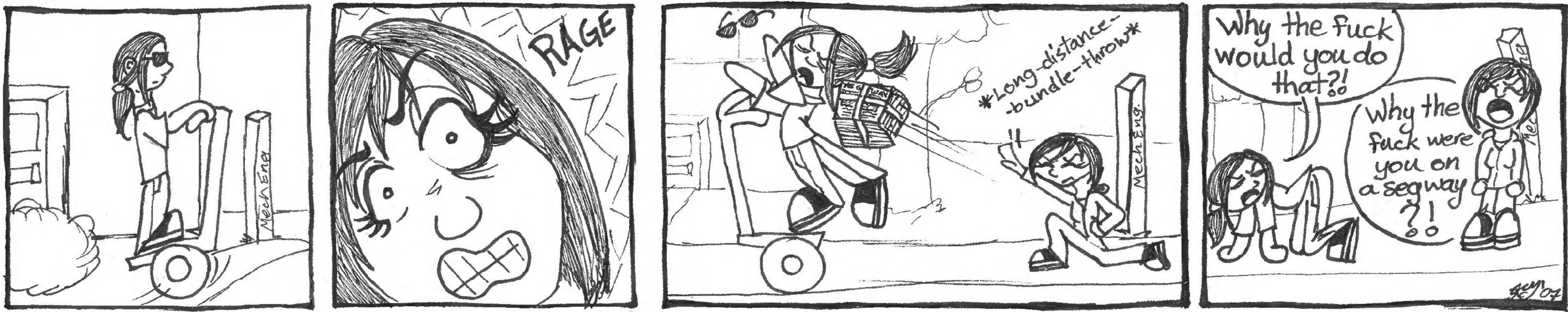
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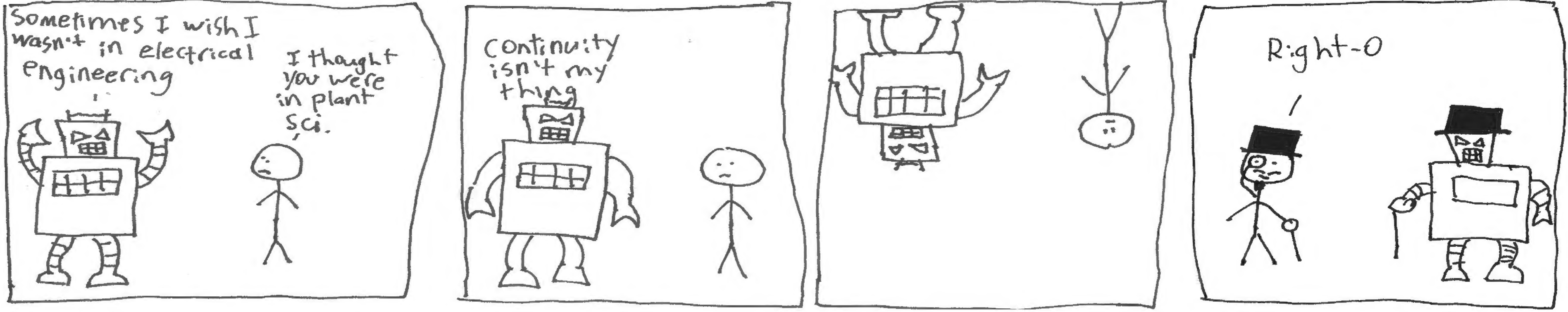
STICKMAN by Jonn Gagnon



OVERHEARD AT THE UNIVERSITY by Matt Lui



KILZOR THE KILLBOT by Grant Crawford and Kyle Angus



THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 26 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 10 january, 2008



SAM BROOKS

MOM—SEND MORE MONEY GSA President Julie Charchun, U of A Residence Halls Association President Peter Ochs, and SU President Michael Janz phone home during the Left Out in the Cold event at the Lister ice rink yesterday. The campus leaders were protesting the proposed 8.7 rent increase and 4.6 per cent tuition hike.

Province threatens Cournoyer

Stelmach lawyer sparks spat over domain name

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

As politicians increasingly use the Internet to campaign and get their messages out, U of A student Dave Cournoyer is facing a possible lawsuit after registering the domain name of the Alberta Premier.

A letter from the Calgary-based law firm Walsh Williams Creighton, which represents Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, was issued to Cournoyer, threatening him with legal action regarding ownership of the URL www.edstelmach.ca.

Cournoyer, currently a fourth-year Arts student and last year's Students' Union Vice-President (External), registered the domain name for \$14 in April of last year, roughly four months after Stelmach was appointed Premier.

"In April 2007—about eight to ten months after [Stelmach] decided to run for the PC leadership, and about 13 years after he became a politician—he still hadn't registered the domain name Edstelmach.ca," Cournoyer explained, adding that he was "shocked" when he realized that the URL was still available.

"No one had thought that perhaps registering your domain name might be an important thing in 2008."

Cournoyer had been using the domain to forward to his blog, Daveberta.ca, on which he is often critical of the Alberta government. However, he later changed the forward to direct users to the Wikipedia page of Harry Strom, the last Social Credit premier of Alberta.

"The reason I wanted to forward it to [Strom's page] was because people were making the comparison between the two," he said. "I thought it was appropriate. I don't think Harry Strom would have registered his domain name either."

The letter, which is dated 3 December 2007, claims that Cournoyer has been "[misappropriating Stelmach's] personality." Furthermore, it requests him to "make arrangements with [his] service provider by December 21, 2007, to ensure that the Website no longer forwards to [his blog]."

Cournoyer said he didn't comply with these requests by the deadline, but that he has yet to hear anything from Stelmach's legal counsel since receiving the letter.

PLEASE SEE **THREAT** ♦ PAGE 3

Controversy surrounds firing of CJSR manager

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Daryl Richel was surprised when his contract as CJSR's program manager wasn't extended; however, that surprise was soon to be overshadowed when he was fired two weeks before his last scheduled day of work.

Richel had reapplied for the position of program manager at the end of his third three-year term holding the position. However, the job was given to another internal applicant—former marketing and public relations director Jay Hannley.

"I reapplied, and I was told my team building, leadership, and vision weren't as good as the person who did get the job," Richel explained, adding that his last day on the job would have been 18 January.

However, on 4 January, Richel was terminated, and he said his volunteer privileges were revoked after he provided CJSR volunteer Brian Shuchuk with the organization's volunteer contact list.

"In my termination letter, it said that I violated station privacy policy and privacy legislation, so I asked to see the CJSR privacy policy, and so far, they haven't shown me anything from the CJSR policy manual that says that I violated a policy," Richel explained.

According to Shuchuk, the volunteer list had been requested so that volunteers unhappy with the decision to not rehire Richel as program manager could arrange a meeting to "discuss such a major change to a station that's been run very smoothly."

"We thought that we were doing a

lot of good getting support for each other," Shuchuk said, adding that he "never could have foreseen" the request for the volunteer list having this result.

CJSR staff have been unable to comment officially on these events, and while the First Alberta Campus Radio Association (FACRA) Board of Directors is currently handling all official communication, FACRA Board President Craig Elliott remains tight-lipped.

"This is an issue between Mr Richel and us," Elliott said, adding that FACRA "has, to a limited degree, been responding to any questions [from volunteers] via email."

Shuchuk remains unsatisfied with the rationale for the termination, as he feels the reasons for which Richel wasn't initially rehired haven't been addressed.

"[FACRA] didn't really justify the reasons for hiring the other candidate over Daryl. They provided how the process happened and not the exact 'why,' so that's basically what we, as volunteers of this station, want—we want to know why the other candidate was selected over Daryl," Shuchuk said.

He also added that the timing of Richel's termination announcement was suspect.

"In fact, that email was received in the exact minute that a message regarding the policy on privacy and FOIP was mentioned on the listserv," Shuchuk said.

However, CJSR News Director Samantha Power and Volunteer Director Laura Jeffreys—both speaking personally as CJSR volunteers and



FILE PHOTO: NICK WIEBE

WAITING FOR ANSWERS Richel says he's still unsure why he was dismissed.

not on behalf of its staff—noted that the hiring of a new program manager had followed the station's bylaws.

"There has been a [hiring] procedure that was followed; the procedure is laid out in CJSR's bylaws; the hiring committee was struck," Jeffreys said. "They took their responsibilities very seriously and went through an entire hiring process with due diligence and

arrived at a decision."

"We're hoping that the community can come together and resolve some differences [and] hopefully move forward," Power added.

Elliott further explained that FACRA has arranged to answer any CJSR volunteer questions at their regular meeting on 22 January.

PLEASE SEE **CJSR** ♦ PAGE 3

Inside

News	1-4
News Feature	5
Feature	6
Opinion	7-9
A&E	10-13
Sports	14-16
Classifieds	18
Comics	19



A Royal collection

The Royal Alberta Museum recently celebrated its 40th anniversary, and the U of A has been there for it all.

NEWS, PAGE 5



A royal return

Chris Krause is back after the break with a brand new Peanut & Circle—and you know there can only be one.

COMICS, PAGE 19

2008

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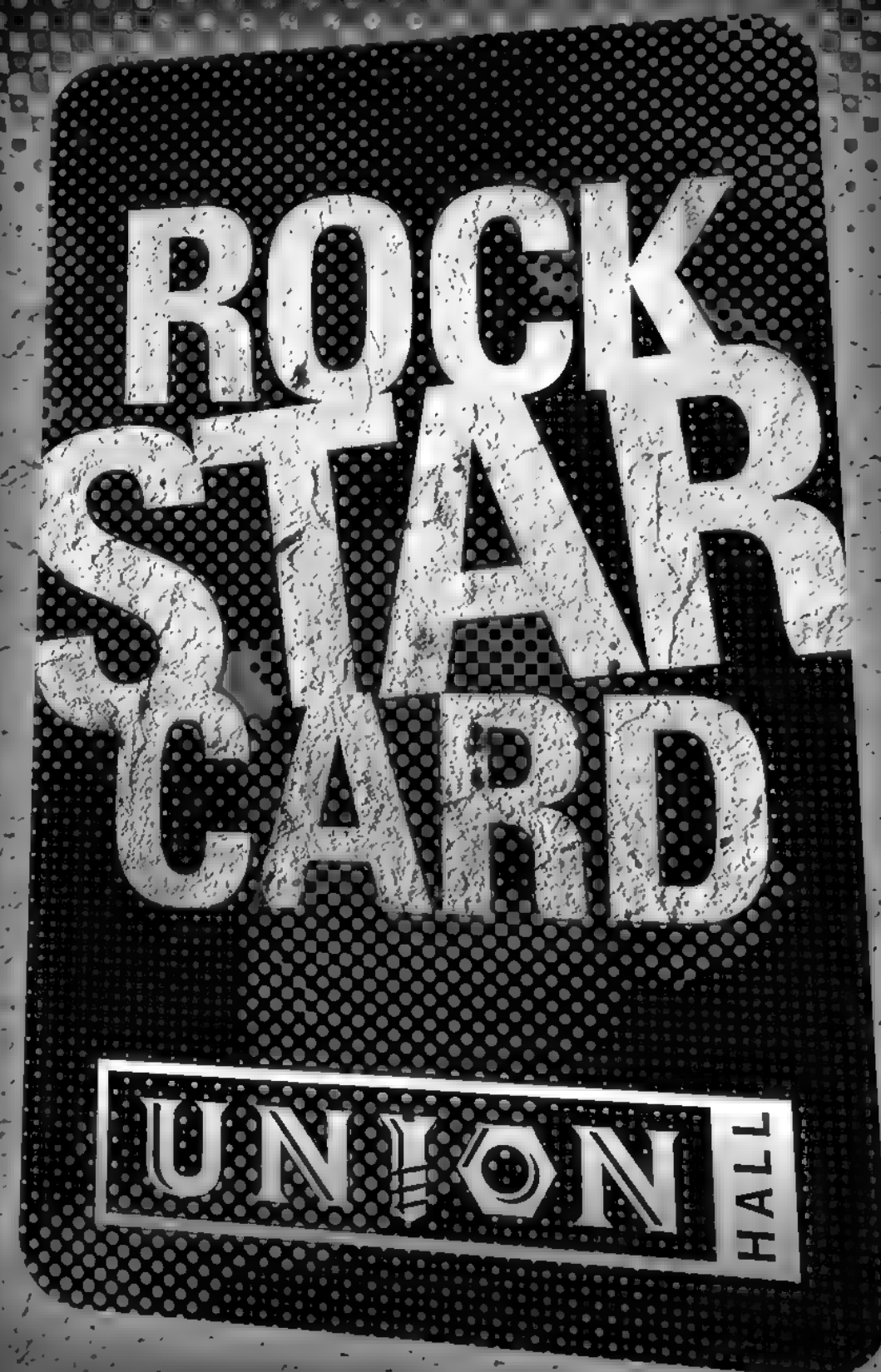
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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super CoolScan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENCE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we owe her a debt, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of choice are Zootierro and Minesweeper.

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COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Jon Mastel

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22 January.

ROLLING ON DUBS

A presentation was given from Dub5, a company created by U of A alumni. They proposed that Council take advantage of their new web application, which would generate new funds for the SU as well as make scheduling for students more efficient. Their new web-based agenda would allow those individuals that aren't good time managers to benefit from those that are. If one of your classmates were to post that an assignment was due, the event would also show up in your calendar, just as if your friends invited you to go drinking at RATT. This system would be paid for by targeted advertising to what the individual was doing. Students writing the SAT would have SAT help ads on their profile. The advertisers wouldn't be able to know who was viewing their ads, just that law students would see it. Dub5 proposed to pay the SU ten per cent of revenue for the ability provide students with the service. A memorandum of understanding on an agreement will be presented to the SU by Dub5 at the next meeting.

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

World University Students Canada (WUSC) presented to Council requesting that the required number of signatures to introduce a referendum on the SU election ballot be waived for their mandatory fee increase. Currently, each

“We should take a lesson from the book of Lenin and have less people making the decisions.”

MICHAEL JANZ
SU President

— on shrinking the size of Council next year

student pays 39¢ to help bring a refugee to the U of A and receive an education. Their referendum would see the fee increase to \$1.69 per student. WUSC pointed to increased cost of living for supporting students, as well as the desire to support an additional refugee. The referendum would occur this spring at the general election.

RN REFERENDUM

Council unanimously passed a motion to allow Nursing students the choice on whether to have a mandatory faculty association fee of \$7.50. The faculty will be holding a referendum on this issue in the spring.

QUESTION PERIOD

President Michael Janz was asked why two microwaves cost the SU \$1300. Janz explained that the cost was not just for the purchase of the microwaves, but also for the installation and the cost to have the units cleaned by faculty associations.

Janz was then asked how much each faculty association was being paid and how often the microwaves would be cleaned. Janz deferred the question to Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Eamonn Gamble, who stated that the association wouldn't just be paid but could apply for a grant for cleaning the units.

Gamble was then asked about the proposed Powerplant Visionary Roundtable. He replied by saying that the SU wants student input on the new stage of the Powerplant and that they



TARASTIEGLITZ

ELECTION PREP Dollansky discussed lobbying during the possible AB election.

would be putting together a group from a number of stakeholders as to what to do with the space.

Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky received an inquiry about the potential upcoming provincial election. Dollansky stated that the SU, along with the other colleges, technical institutes, and universities, would be purchasing advertising spaces throughout the province. He said this would be the most visual campaign in the province.

Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel fielded a question regarding Bear Scat. Samuel responded by stating that the SU was trying to reach Steve Kirkham but was having difficulty. Samuel is still working on the project.

Samuel was also asked about the Cameron Library renovations. He said that last he heard, the project was to be finished this past September, and that he would look into it.

Dollansky responded to a question about Wednesday's Left Out In The Cold event. Dollansky stated that it would be good for the Councillors to tell their classmates, and that the SU hopes to see 300-500 students.

Finally, Janz was questioned on the Campus Food Bank's request for more space. He responded by stating that a full space review would occur of the lower level of SUB to find all available space. This would also help in the SU request to expand SUB, he concluded.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Stu Trebelco

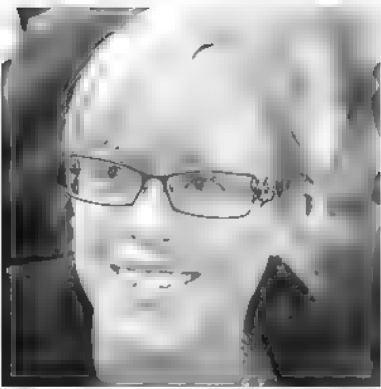
As you may be aware, Hilary Clinton recently choked up while discussing her campaign with the media.
When's the last time you cried, and why?



Jeremy Prystay
Business IV



Ewen Lavoie
Science III



Janeil Funk
Human Ecology III



Kevin Jones
Kinesiology I

I got the lowest mark on my final exam out of anyone in any of the classes. It was 26 per cent in Accounting 418.

Probably this morning 'cause my eggs weren't right. My mom made my eggs all wrong, so I threw them at the wall.

I cried last night when I watched *The Biggest Loser* because the fat people got to talk to their families.

Men don't cry.



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PIA urges gov't to up funding for postsecondary in 2008

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

On Monday, Public Interest Alberta (PIA) rang in the first day of classes by holding a media conference at the University of Alberta to draw attention to the state of postsecondary education in the province.

PIA's Task Force on Postsecondary Education focused on the problems currently facing students in the province and stressed the need for a comprehensive plan to address these issues.

"This campaign is here to challenge the government and all parties to see what is missing and what will be missing if we do not take action now," said PIA Executive Director Bill Moore-Kilgannon.

So far no official provincial election call has been made; however, Moore-Kilgannon said it will be coming shortly, adding that PIA plans to ensure postsecondary education is "a fundamental part of that [election] debate."

"The election call will come February 4th or 5th, right after the speech from the throne, and we expect all political parties to have a very clear and dynamic plan for postsecondary education as part of that," he said.

U of A Students' Union Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky, who focused on financial aid issues during the media conference, added that PIA's efforts "mesh quite nicely"

with those of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS).

"As much as we can work together and as many different avenues we can use to make the public debate about postsecondary education, the better off we're going to be," Dollansky said.

NAIT Student Association Vice-President (Academic) Lisi Monro was also on hand to draw attention to the fact that the trades are being equally affected by a lack of PSE funding.

"Simply put, there are more qualified students in this province than there are spaces," Monro said. "When you want to talk about infrastructure in Alberta's economy, go up the road to NAIT [...]. We're operating at 200 per cent capacity."

Moore-Kilgannon said that PIA's campaign message will be taken province-wide, and added that the advocacy group will be working hard to send information to rural areas.

"These issues are relevant just as much in Lacombe as they are in downtown Calgary," Dollansky said.

Alberta's two opposition parties were also quick to add their voice to the debate. NPd MLA (Edmonton-Strathcona) Raj Pannu, whose portfolio includes advanced education and technology, noted that the press conference was "very timely."

"Time is now for the public to engage this government in a serious debate over the chronic problem of

underfunding in postsecondary education," Pannu said, highlighting the pressures put on students by rising tuition fees and housing costs.

"The Tories are playing catch-up on funding for postsecondary institutions thanks to their penny-pinching ways during the Klein era," Maurice Tougas, Liberal shadow minister for Advanced Education and Technology, said via email. Tougas further explained that the Alberta Liberal plan for additional funding for postsecondaries "goes beyond the government's Access to the Future fund."

"As for the Ralph Klein promise of the lowest tuition rates in the country, I can safely say the Tories have given up on that boast. I asked the current Premier, during Question Period, to confirm the Klein commitment, and he refused to answer directly, which is Tory-speak for 'no,'" Tougas said.

But while the parties developed their separate solutions for the problems facing postsecondary education in the province, Moore-Kilgannon said that average Albertans aren't necessarily as disconnected from the political process as some might believe.

"I think the whole question of apathy is overstated sometimes," he said. "When people begin to understand the connection between their quality of life and their quality of postsecondary education and politics, that's when people get active."

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Options still available to avoid legal action

THREAT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, Jim Campbell, Executive Director of PC Alberta, said that while the deadline has passed and no legal action has taken place, Cournoyer can still comply with the letter to avoid a legal battle.

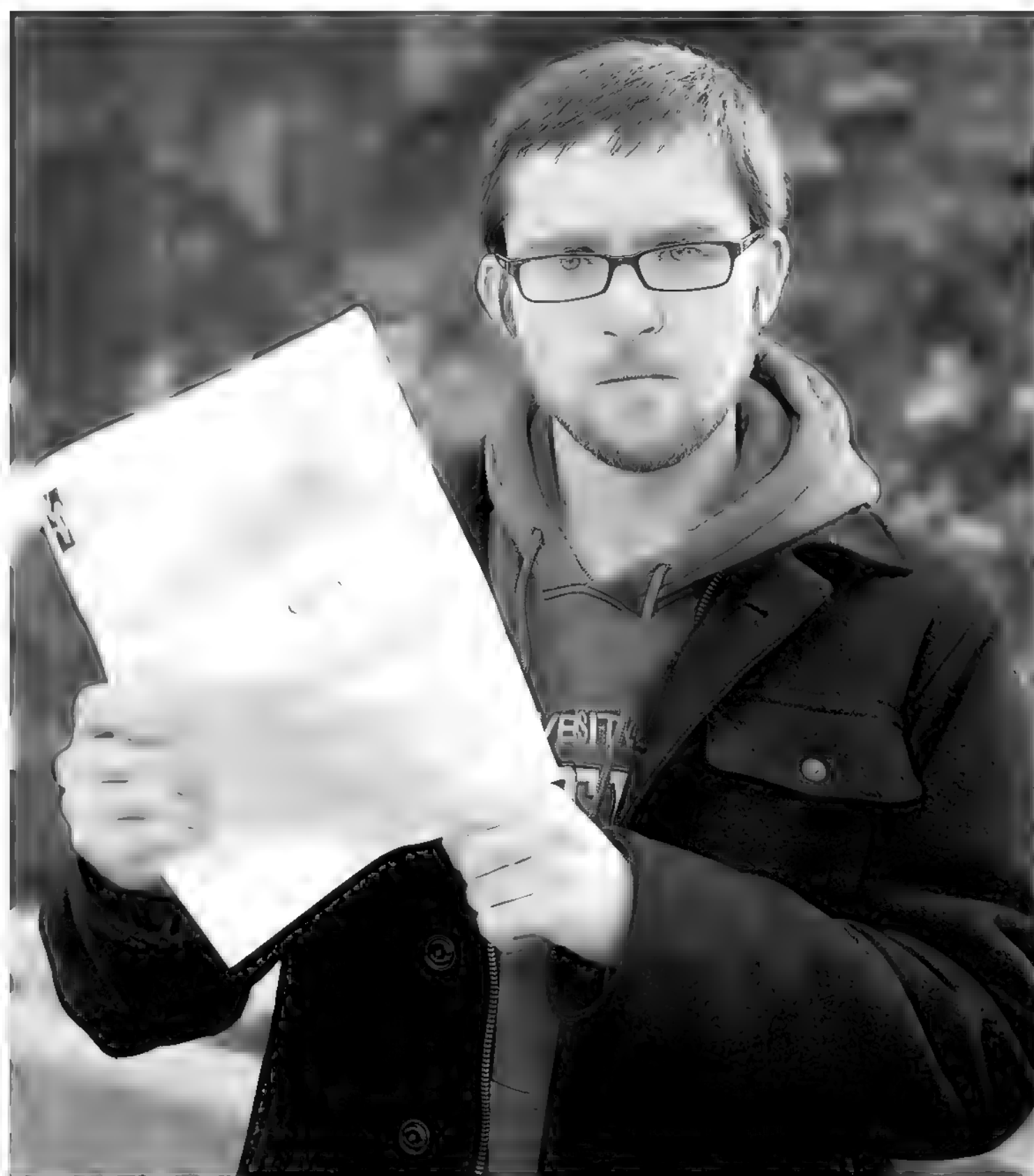
"As I understand it, the letter provides Mr Cournoyer a number of options to avoid litigation," Campbell explained. "Those options are still open to him, but I'm not going to discuss the Premier's legal strategy."

While he was somewhat surprised by the whole ordeal, Cournoyer said he would be seeking his own legal counsel to see what his options are.

"I think this thing is pretty bizarre and pretty ridiculous, but I am taking it seriously," he said. "It's a pretty threatening letter."

"Instead of offering to buy the domain name from me, which would have been the more proper thing to do, Honest Ed's first reaction was to hire a high-priced Calgary lawyer to go after a 24-year-old university student."

The Gateway will continue to follow this story as it develops.



DON'T SUE ME, BRO! Cournoyer shows off the cease and desist letter.

Volunteers looking for clarity on Richel situation

CJSR • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"What it basically comes down to is the FACRA Board of Directors is the democratically elected board in charge of managing the station's affairs, and this is one of those affairs," Elliott explained. "This hiring process we're talking about—it's confidential. We're able to talk about it with any of the candidates or their representatives. We can't talk about it with the media."

Nevertheless, Richel remains

unconvinced that clarity surrounding his termination exists.

"People have been asking the board, 'Show us the policies that he violated,' and the response from the board so far has only been, 'we consulted a lawyer,'" Richel said.

However, after 23 years of involvement with the campus radio station, Richel says he would still like to be a part of CJSR in the future.

"I'd like to come back. It's not the

centre of my life, but it's an important part of my life," he said.

Richel added that he is "confused at this stage," but that he doesn't blame any one person for the ambiguity he feels has surrounded the recent events.

"I know the people on the board, and I think they are doing the best job they possibly can under the circumstances, but I think they might be following policies and processes to a fault."

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2003/2004 - Dr. Edward Lozowski, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

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Contact the Chair of the Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching Committee:

**Dr. Brenda Leskiw, Associate Dean
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CW223 Biological Sciences Building
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Potential drop-off looming for postsecondary enrollment

Non-traditional applicants are the key to survival after 2013—StatsCan report

KSENIYA PRINTS
CUP Central Bureau Chief
NICK TAYLOR-VAISEY
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA AND WINNIPEG (CUP)—A recent projection of postsecondary enrolment is predicting an acute shortage of students in Canada's colleges and universities.

"We wanted to put forward a series of what-if scenarios," said Patrice de Broucker, one of the authors of the Statistics Canada report.

Statistics Canada teamed up with the Canadian Council for Learning to produce the report, entitled *Post-secondary Enrolment Trends to 2013: Three Scenarios*. It found that enrolment trends in Canada's universities go far beyond simple demographics.

"We can't believe that demographics [alone are] setting the trends; it's more than demographics," de Broucker said.

Three enrolment scenarios were put forward. The first projection, based purely on demographics, assumes that students will continue enrolling in institutions at current rates. It concludes that enrolment will reach its peak in 2012/13, after which a drastic decline will occur and continue for another 13 years.

The second scenario studied long-term trends in postsecondary enrolment from 1990–2006. This projection established a rise in the number of students aged 17–29 until 2017, compensating for a drop in other age groups. But this group too will run out of youth in 2013, leading to another steep decline.

The third and final scenario hypothesizes that male students, who are currently under-represented in universities, will begin enrolling at the same rate as female students. This prognosis is the most optimistic, as it predicts steadily rising numbers in many provinces and age groups well into the future.

Saul Schwartz, a public policy expert at Carleton University who specializes in postsecondary education, said he doubts the usefulness of studying increased male participation rates.

"Male participation rates, I think,

are a function of the economy," he said. "Raising them would be difficult in the current economic context, just because there are so many jobs out there that males seem to be attracted to that don't involve postsecondary education."

The report comes to a conclusion realized long ago at many universities: the need to attract students from all across Canada, and the world, and from all socio-economic levels.

"I know a lot of universities [are] worrying about what happens after the baby[-boom] echo moves through the system. One of the things almost all of them are focusing on right now is the international marketplace," said David Robinson, associate executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

"It's not just a matter of offering more money or, in my opinion, more information. Those who want to go are going, those who don't want to go aren't going, and we can't do much to change that."

SAUL SCHWARTZ
CARLETON UNIVERSITY
PUBLIC POLICY EXPERT

Robinson, however, believes that these institutions should first look inside the country for under-represented groups.

"We know there's a huge cohort here in Canada," he said.

Peter Mason, 34, was drawn to Winnipeg's Red River College because of the lack of training opportunities on his reserve at St Theresa Point, 400km northeast of Winnipeg.

"There are not so many options in the field you want to study in; that's why people like me come to colleges and universities [in the city]—to further my education in a different field where no one has ever achieved yet," Mason said.

Mason has since enrolled in the Aboriginal Self-Governance program at the University of Winnipeg, a degree meant, according to the program's website, to advance "original and creative solutions" to aboriginal issues.

"Education is important for me so I can be a role model in the community once I'm done, and inspire other upcoming students ... to do better," he said.

But Mason is far from the norm in aboriginal communities, and Robinson thinks universities should focus more on changing that.

"We have a terribly low participation rate amongst Canada's aboriginal population, and yet that's one of the fastest-growing components of our population—particularly young, urban aboriginals who arguably are in dire need of more education."

Schwartz, however, doesn't believe that postsecondary participation can be increased substantially.

"I think most people who want to go are currently going. Aboriginal students are an exception, I think," he said.

"It's not just a matter of offering more money or, in my opinion, more information. Those who want to go are going, those who don't want to go aren't going, and we can't do much to change that."

Schwartz added, however, that if boosting participation rates is the goal, aboriginal students would be "high on [his] list" along with first-generation students, a conclusion also reached in the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's 2007 report entitled *The Price of Knowledge*.

Mature students—those who have already entered the work force but who return to continue their education later in life—were also identified as important to the future of Canada's universities.

De Brucker believes that the Statistics Canada study will help postsecondary policy-makers direct future efforts.

"In the institutions, you either accept the decline and adjust your programs, or you may go after out-of-province students [and] try to sell yourself," he said.

Profs attack laptops in the classroom

CODY CRAWFORD
The *Charlatan* (Carleton University)

OTTAWA (CUP)—Plenty of students bring laptops to classrooms, but using them for an academic purpose isn't always their intention—now professors across the country are asking students to unplug.

Jean Boivin, an economics professor at École des Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) Montreal, said that it wasn't until he found out that one of his students had lost thousands of dollars day-trading during his classes that he decided to try and do something about it.

"Students wrote a complaint about their colleague misusing computers in class, which was disrupting them," Boivin said.

He said he was receiving complaints about students doing things like trading, gaming, or chatting in class. Taking a chance, Boivin, along with a number of other professors at

Columbia University in New York, declared their classrooms laptop-free.

"I tried it and found it made a huge difference," explained Boivin, who said he was pleased with the change it made. Now other professors are also experimenting with banning laptops.

"Banning the computers has the benefit of pressuring the faculty into delivering a better course."

JEAN BOIVIN
HEC-MONTREAL ECONOMICS PROFESSOR

Terence Day, who teaches geography at Okanagan College, is one such professor.

"I ask students at the beginning of the semester what they want to do

about laptops in the classroom. I lay out the issues in terms of the potential impacts of laptops on learning and the need for students to take responsibility for their own learning."

Owen Roberts, the director of research communication at the University of Guelph, recently wrote to *University Affairs Magazine* with another proposal, which he calls an electronic countdown.

"I started giving the students five minutes at the start of class to IM, check e-mail, call someone, or do whatever they need to do electronically. Once that grace period ends, cell phones are off and IM and Internet is disengaged," Roberts said.

Boivin said he thinks the issue should be dealt with on an individual basis and not by university administration.

"Banning the computers has the benefit of pressuring the faculty into delivering a better course," Boivin said. "I think people should do whatever they are comfortable with."

A Night at the Museum

EVERY PERSON, PLACE, AND THING HAS A HISTORY, and nowhere is history more alive than at a museum. The Royal Alberta Museum (RAM), which just finished celebrating its 40th anniversary, has been shaping memories for Albertans since its inception on 6 December 1967. After 40 years of showcasing what has now reached over 11 million artifacts, it remains a popular tourist attraction and academic institution in our province. From backyard finds to extreme fieldwork, the Museum has grown with the help of different contributors, and University of Alberta staff and students have been an integral part of this expansion. **KIRSTEN GORUK** and **JENNIFER HUYGEN** discover what all the buzz is about the Museum this year, and why it's important to the University.

PHOTOS BY LIZ DURDEN

Bringing the past to the present, the Museum has capitalized on the business of collecting. From their first dinosaur fossil to a 1970s *Star Wars* Millennium Falcon toy, it has preserved and studied artifacts from all regions and eras, showcasing snippets of our history and culture.

The museum isn't the only institution that has made the most of this study of the past. Over the years, the U of A has developed a close academic and professional relationship with the institution. This includes the support of STEP (Student Training and Employment Program) and sharing laboratory space with students and professors.

"The majority of [the curatorial or research] staff that comes through here, and I'm talking throughout the 40 years, have either studied at the University of Alberta or pursued post-grad studies [there]," notes Todd Crawshaw, the communications coordinator at RAM.

There are 13 active curatorial programs in place at RAM and, as Crawshaw explains, it's the curators and support staff that keep the place running.

"I'm surrounded by walking, talking encyclopedias of knowledge, and it's really cool. I'm just surrounded by these really creatively expressive, passionate people. We're here because everyone from the security professionals, guys like me in communications, or the curators are passionate about what we've got, and we want to share it with everyone that we can," Crawshaw remarks.

Alwynne Beaudoin, an adjunct professor in the Department of Anthropology and Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, is also the head of Earth Sciences and a paleo-environmentalist at RAM.

Beaudoin enjoys testing the resolve of her students during extreme fieldwork. One such trip had her and her students out in the middle of a frozen lake in Saskatchewan collecting core samples in -35C weather. She also frequents the U of A campus to share her knowledge in a classroom setting.

"I often go do guest lectures, presentations in different classes, and I co-supervise graduate students, so I quite often have graduate students working over here on projects and I also work on projects with people over at the U of A too," she explains.

While Beaudoin visits the U of A campus, the museum sees its fair share of visitors too. In terms of popularity, it ranks fifth among museums in Canada for patrons, averaging about 300 000 visitors a year.

The Provincial Museum of Alberta—as RAM was previously titled—opened its doors with a mere 42 000 objects on display. Previously housed on the fifth floor of the Alberta Legislature building, the collection moved into its permanent facilities in Edmonton's Glenora neighbourhood in 1967 for the official opening. Construction costs at that time came in at about \$6–\$8 million.

Like its sister museum the Royal Tyrell in Drumheller, RAM is a provincially funded entity. The revenue it generates through admission fees is put towards the support of educational programs.

"We host about 60 000 school kids a year on field trips," Crawshaw says. "[Museum guides] work with them in the galleries; we develop aspects and activities that fit with the K–12 core curriculum."

With three permanent exhibits—Wild Alberta, the Natural History Gallery, and the Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture—and seven storage warehouses, the museum maintains a diverse collection of artifacts. These

objects are separated into three categories, including biodiversity, landscape, and cultural studies.

The museum also regularly creates or brings in feature exhibits. Some of the most popular include Jesus Anno Domini and Cool and Collected, a random collection of unique artifacts spanning its entire catalogue.

Of the latter exhibit Crawshaw explains, "we had a lot of our staff go around and choose some of their favourite objects, and we put them in this kind of stewpot presentation without continuity."

He believes exhibits of this nature help to clear up a number of false impressions fixed in people's minds by mass media.

"There are a lot of misconceptions in our popular culture today—likely not on a university campus, but throughout the rest of the culture," Crawshaw says. "It's just amazing what you find at the museum, and I keep on discovering new things almost every day that I'm here."

Built as a gift to the people of Alberta in Canada's centennial year, RAM has since joined a small community of museums across the country with a royal designation.

"One of the most significant events that we've been through was the 2005 Centennial celebrations with [the] Queen. That's when we changed our name from the Provincial Museum of Alberta and received the royal designation," Crawshaw explains. "We're a community of about ten, maybe eleven museums in the nation with royal designation."

RAM's 40th anniversary celebrations in 2007 marked another significant event in the museum's history. Beaudoin's most recent contribution was an exhibit entitled Museum by Numbers for the anniversary festivities, while other features of the celebration included another temporary gallery show called 40 Fabulous Finds, offering free admission, and showing screenings of the film *Night at the Museum*.

The 40th anniversary celebrations wrapped up on 9 December 2007, but major plans for the museum's future are surging ahead. Staff currently have their hands full with plans for a renewal project. One of the factors behind the proposed expansion of the Museum is a lack of storage space.

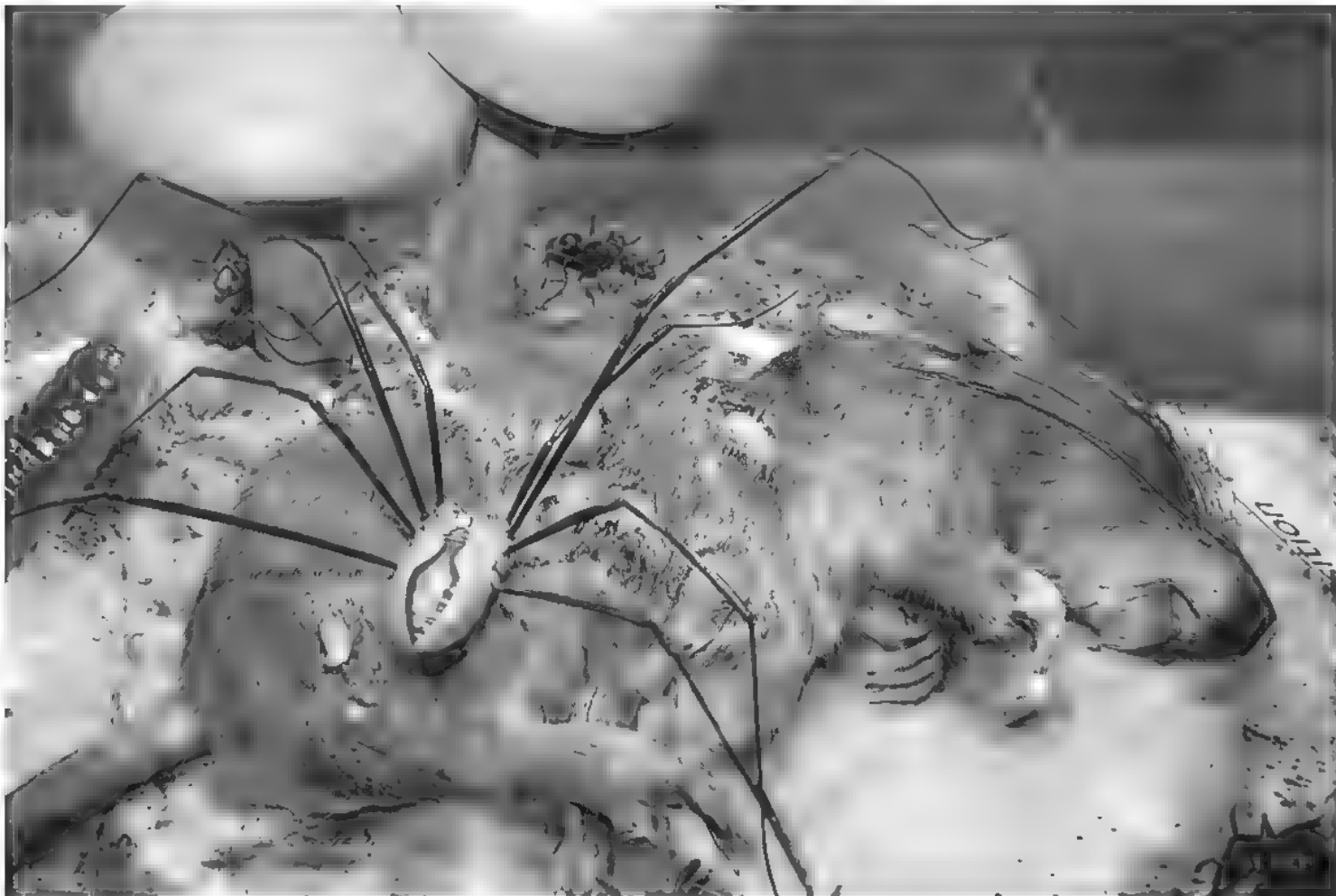
"Museums worldwide are in the same boat: we're bursting at the seams. We don't have the collection space required to house these objects," Crawshaw states. "In addition to what we've got on site, [our warehouses] are packed floor to ceiling and every way in between with artifacts."

The renewal plan aims to bring RAM up to contemporary museum standards. Staff hope the renewal will enable them to do an even better job of protecting the collections by incorporating recent improvements in air humidity control and air circulation.

In an age ruled by mass media and technology readily available at our finger tips, there's something contemporary and relevant about visiting a museum. Whether it's a bus-load of grade-school children checking out the creepy crawlers or a university student eager to study kangaroo rats, there's always something to be learned.

One of the many discoveries that Beaudoin has made during her time at RAM is the importance of the work done by museum staff and its place in the bigger picture.

"You need to know where you come from before you know where you're going. [Our] kind of work is based on knowledge of the past because you can't see trends going into the future unless you really know what's happened in the past."



collectiondissection

- **11 000 000+:** Number of objects currently in the Museum's total collection
- **3720:** Square metres of warehouse space outside the Museum
- **800:** Objects in the Pollen reference collection, RAM's smallest collection
- **150+:** Number of field projects that have taken place in the last 20 years
- **148:** Summer students that have worked at the Museum over the last 12 years
- **1:** The Bug Room, the Museum's live invertebrate gallery, was the first of its kind in western Canada

rivetingrelics

The Royal Alberta Museum has definitely got a few artifacts—both dead and alive—that are worth second looks:

- Mexican Red-Knee Tarantula
- Columbian Mammoth, with iron cast made from an original skeleton
- Piece of the Red Baron's plane
- Samurai sword with shark-skin handle
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's pistol
- Fluorescent gemstones



The Gateway Presents:

The lazy student's guide to the centenary year

The University's 2008 calendar is packed with an almost-daily barrage of big-ticket items, obscure sojourns, and regular fare passed off as features. Here's what you really need to know.

28 JANUARY: Formal Launch/President's Address

Convocation Hall will be the site for the official kick off to the University's year-long birthday bash. President Indira Samerasekera will be decked out in the finest garb of her office as she delivers the keynote address, which hopefully looks nothing like Stephen Mandel's fury medal thing that he sometimes wears around his neck. Various representatives will also be called upon to speak of the U of A from their perspectives. Convocation Hall may be packed, but if you can find a spot, it'll probably be worth catching.



4 MARCH: Mary Robinson Human Rights Lectureship

Following in the footsteps of Desmond Tutu, Romeo Dallaire, and Irene Khan, Mary Robinson will be on hand to deliver the U of A's Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights. The first female president of Ireland (from 1990-1997), Robinson spent five years as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, a job description that fits ideally with the lecture. Following that, she has been the Honorary President of Oxfam International, and is currently advocating for ethical globalization addressing trade, migration, and HIV/AIDS in Africa. Just thinking about not attending this gives you bad karma.

PRIME MINISTERS' CONVERSATION SERIES

Throughout the course of the centenary year, the University will be bringing in six former prime ministers as part of its "Conversation Series"—though more likely than not, the PMs will be doing most of the talking here.

At first glance, it may seem like the University just booked whoever they could get: these are some of our most short-lived, unpopular and unsuccessful prime ministers in history. But in fact, these are simply the only living leaders we've got, which should tell us more about modern Canadian politics than the U of A's discretion in choosing keynotes.

Love them or hate them, here are the half-dozen head honchos that will be coming through town in the next year.

12 MARCH: The Right Honourable Joe Clark

Who better to start with than one of our very own? That's right, Canada's 16th PM is a former U of A student (and reluctant student councillor). In 1959/60, he was also editor-in-chief of the *Gateway*. That year is now known in some circles as "the year of masturbation," owing to a letter published at the end of that year concerning, among other things, masturbation and the female soul.

While Mr Clark will likely not be revisiting this particular aspect of his salad days at University, chances are he will take on such riveting topics as the Progressive Conservative party, Pierre Trudeau, and the '70s. There's only one way to find out, though ...



FILE PHOTO: JOSH NAULT

15 OCTOBER: The Right Honourable John Turner

Remember John Turner? Yeah, us neither. To be fair, he was only PM for three months—plus, chances are, you weren't even born in 1984. In that case, you probably don't know much about him. For instance, were you aware that his middle names are Napier Wyndham? Neither were we—until we read his Wikipedia page, anyway.

Turner had one of the shortest stints of any prime minister, and is now Canada's oldest living former PM. Coincidence? Almost definitely.

5 NOVEMBER: The Right Honourable Paul Martin

As the most recent person to inhabit 24 Sussex Drive (other than, you know, the guy who lives there right now), Martin is better able than anyone to recall his days as prime minister. Not that he would want to: his Liberals were ousted by grumpy tax payers after the Gomery Report dug up dirt on their dealings during the Quebec referendum. It may have been the Sponsorship Scandal that triggered the last election, but the only sponsorship Martin is involved in now is lucrative speaking engagements (though in this case we're sure he was jumping at the chance to one-up his PC counterparts as well).

TBA: Jean Chrétien, Brian Mulroney, and Stephen Harper

The University says it's lined up all six former living PMs as well as the current one, but only Clark, Campbell, Turner, and Martin have been scheduled so far. Likely, these three rogues have been too busy playing Prime Minister, promoting their latest book, or being involved in some form of national scandal to firm up a date yet (though not necessarily in that order).

5 MAY: The Right Honourable Kim Campbell

Where does one start with Kim Campbell? Stealing Hilary Clinton's thunder by at least 15 years, Canada's first lady-PM also bears the dubious distinction of being Canada's first unelected lady-PM. But that never stopped her from getting a gig at Harvard University, as well as gaining membership to the very posh-sounding Club of Madrid.

According to the University's website, these speeches will be recorded for later rebroadcast, but why not get in on the action as it happens? Pencil these one in on your daytimer—then ask yourself why you're not using a computerized calendar or PDA yet. Come on, it's 2008.

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

18 SEPTEMBER: Homecoming

The University is inviting back its alumni—all 207 000 of them—for this event, reviving a long-forgotten varsity tradition. No word on whether a rowdy tailgate party and football game will ensue.

23 SEPTEMBER: 100th Anniversary of the 1st Day of Classes

While there aren't set-in-stone plans for the anniversary of the first day of classes yet, there is sure to be a rather large party, a speech from the President, and lots of glad-handing of alumni. Hopefully, the cake won't be a lie.



FILE PHOTO: RYAN HEISE

There's no crying in US politics

NOT IF YOU'RE A WOMAN, THAT IS. THIS POINT was clearly illustrated by the media response to Hillary Clinton's rare display of emotion Monday morning at a press conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. When responding to a softball question about how, exactly, she "does it," Clinton choked up and became misty-eyed. The tears (or lack thereof) have been labelled variously as crocodile tears—a political ploy dreamed up by handlers and designed to gain support for the poor downtrodden female candidate—and as yet another example of why a woman has no place in the dog-eat-dog world of politics. But frankly, both of these suggestions are bullshit.

Of course, it's all very shocking to see Obama lose after being 13 points ahead in opinion polls—which, no doubt, has many people questioning whether voters were swayed in some way by pity. But the real assumption we're making here is that Hillary somehow managed to "steal" the female vote with this act. This isn't something we would expect to affect the male voting population—they're much too clever for an obvious ploy like that. Rather, it's those easily swayed women who are slaves to their emotion that were suckered in by this Venus flytrap.

Forget the fact that Hillary has polled strongly among women in the past—especially older women. When her eyes welled up, everyone's reservations were drowned, and they couldn't help but vote for the apparent underdog struggling to make it in an old boys' club. This is not only insulting to Hillary, but also to intelligent female voters.

It doesn't matter if this was scripted emotion to gain public favour. This is politics, and she's simply doing her job, which is to get the voters on her side. Forget the idealistic belief that an election is anything more than a popularity contest: we are all aware—or at least should be—that election platforms and promises are just sweet nothings designed to get us into bed.

This is why you never see politicians campaigning too hard in areas that they know they've already won—why butter up the cow that's going to milk itself for you? Assuming that Hillary won the New Hampshire primary due to sympathy is akin to thinking that Obama won Iowa because white people feared being viewed as racist if they voted otherwise.

The fact of the matter is, the only reason this minor incident is getting any airtime is because she's a woman, and therefore must play by an emotional playbook that amounts to little more than a catch-22. If she stays strong and maintains her composure—something she has demonstrated as being more than capable of doing in the past, as seen during her husband's impeachment process—she's viewed as an ice-cold, ironclad bitch, whereas if she shows even the slightest display of emotion, we view it as weakness and muse about whether or not her hysteria is a result of her menstrual cycle.

A man crying tells us that he's incredibly passionate about the subject, but when it comes to a woman, it's buck up and dry your eyes, sweetheart. No matter what way you look at it, we're all still chauvinists at heart, and Hillary won't be able to do right in voters' eyes until she grows a pair.

CONAL PIERSE
Opinion Editor

HD-DVD betamax

NERDS, GEEKS, AND EVEN NORMAL TECHNOLOGY aficionados have descended on Las Vegas this week for the annual Consumer Electronics Show—a massive tradeshow that showcases the best in new gadgetry and technology. But neckbeards be damned if there isn't some controversy coming out of Sin City.

Warner Bros announced that they'll be dropping support of HD-DVD in favour of rival Blu-ray. This means that Universal and Paramount are the only major studios publishing to HD-DVD—though there are rumblings that Universal will soon jump ship, too.

Take heed, sweet HD-DVD, as you approach your final days. But rest easy, for on-demand will rid the world of your blue counterpart in due time.

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor



MIKE KENDRICK

LETTERS

Editorial right for the wrong reasons

Paul Blinov misses the point pretty badly in his opinion piece on the death penalty (re: "Painless death penalty no solution," 8 January).

With regard to people who can't function in society, the choice is between the death penalty or life imprisonment. Rehabilitation has nothing to do with it. And the reason to oppose the death penalty isn't because it fails to show these criminals something different. What do we care what they are shown? They should never have any significant interaction with society ever again.

No, the reason to oppose the death penalty is because the law exists to protect peoples' rights and should impair those rights only to the minimum degree necessary for civilized society. We don't need to kill these people to prevent them from doing harm. Killing them is the greatest possible impairment of a person's rights and is justified neither by convenience, nor expense, nor vengeance disguised as justice.

JASON MORRIS
Law I

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Activists ruin University

I, for one, am god damned sick and tired of hearing all this crap about student power, and I feel that my sentiments are typical of 80 per cent of the students on this campus. This whole entire mess is certainly not helped by all the publicity given to it by the media. That television show on CBC last year was typical. A group of long-haired, pot-smoking morons were the self-chosen spokesmen for the entire university.

Since I am, I feel, an average student, I objected to this most strenuously. Additional sensational reporting like that in recent editions of the *Edmonton Journal* also gives the radical more exposure and, of course, he revels in it.

The whole idea of student power is good to a point. I feel that students should have a greater say as to the quality of the courses and professors as well as some representation on the Board of Governors. This seems to be coming about on its own due to prior requests by our vociferous minority and our students' council. Being a typical radical minority, they aren't content to

stop here—they now want control of the whole University. Since when are students entitled to run this institution?

As professor Ted Kemp said in his recent "Angry look at the university education," the university is the property of the people of Alberta, and we are all fortunate enough to be attending it as their "protégés." The money to support this institution is obtained to the greatest extent from our own pockets. Thus, I feel that we do deserve some say in how this campus is run. But not these radicals.

They feel they shouldn't have to pay tuition fees and yet should have complete control of this public property and make it their own private little domain. Most of these are just half-assed politicians who feel they can be big wheels in the university sphere where they only have a bunch of indifferent apathetic students to answer to.

Well, I am taking enough time from my studies to write this letter, and I wish that all the apathetic bastards like myself would do the same. Maybe we could show the local press and most of our local revolutionary mongers that we are all fed up with all this student power bullshit and would appreciate it if they would quit trying to pretend they are representative of the student sentiment on this campus.

Probably the best way to put these bastards in their place would be for all the non-radical students (which I'm sure would number 8 000-10 000) to gather at a large mass meeting and let the people of this province know that the radical element isn't typical of this campus. Apathetic and busy as I am, I would dearly love to take part in such a gathering if only a few such as myself would take the initial steps to organize it.

So come on you apathetic studious types—let's put these bastards in their place once and for all!

A LUND
21 January, 1969

A long time ago, in a newspaper far, far away

The new *Star Wars* trailer warrants a front-page review in the *Gateway*?

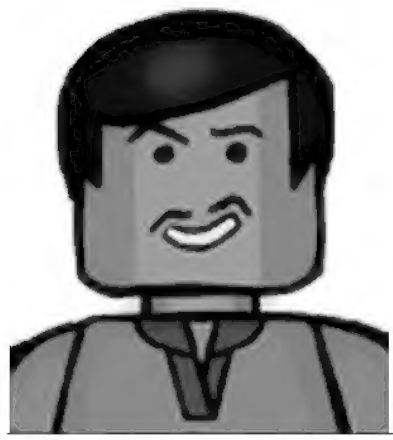
What is going on here? A quarter page worth of "prime" front-page real estate on a movie that won't even be out until summer? What purpose does that serve? Are you going to start covering the new Mr Clean commercials? I just thought I'd put that out for you to consider. Other than that, I think the paper has been fine for the most part.

DONNA TELAAD
19 January, 1999

Will 2008 be the year that we finally kick the bucket?

It's going to take a lot more than what we're facing to kill us off

I'm surprised we've dodged the evolutionary bullet for this long



MIKAEL
RAHEEM

point

I'd like to say that the human race won't be doomed in 2008 because of some innate compassion we all hold for each other, but everyone knows that's a load of horse shit. The real reason we won't die out any time soon is because of the simple fact that we've created an environment that refuses to let us die. Scientists call this phenomenon "irony."

Think about it: obese people have liposuction to give them a helping hand (or two, depending on just how large they are), as well as other cheaper yet more difficult methods of survival such as weight loss companies. These tactics keep the overweight alive no matter what condition their vital organs are in or how encrusted their veins are with fat.

The thing is that the people who create these methods of salvation aren't really interested in saving the weak at all, but are instead much more interested in getting their money. Fortunately, because obesity is, by and large, considered to be hideous in our society, said fatties are willing to shell any number of dollars for a fix; thus, everyone wins. The day when our society accepts obesity as beautiful and money as evil is the day we're actually doomed.

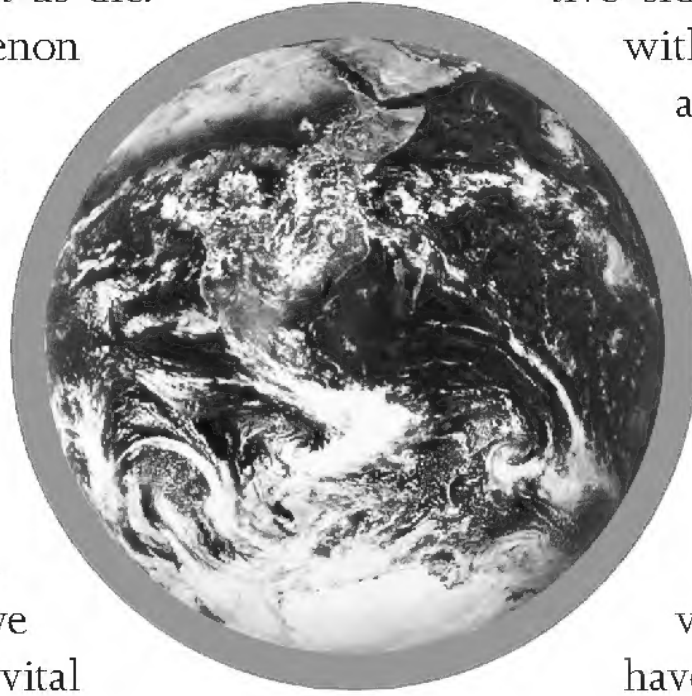
As for the atmosphere, while global warming is a reality in some shape or form, we all

know that eventually nuclear winter will cancel out any so-called temperatures too hot for our planet to survive. It's only a matter of time before some idiot country fires a nuke off at another idiot country, and soon enough, the whole arms-bearing world will be at it.

Shortly afterwards, the dust that gets kicked up in the air from all of the bombs will block out the sun and freeze the Earth—or so goes the theory. This is where our inadvertent planning comes to fruition and global warming starts to play a positive role: the holes in the ozone layer will let the shut-out sun into our atmosphere to heat up all the refugees that have survived the flames, shockwaves, and radioactive side-effects. Clearly the problem with global warming is no longer an issue, thereby eliminating it as a cause our damnation in 2008.

Some people say that overpopulation will kill us sooner than later. China is always used as an example. However, what these naysayers forget to mention is that we northern countries barely have anyone living here. Canada only has 3.3 people per square kilometer, leaving plenty of room for the people from so-called "overpopulated" countries who will soon be shipped over here by the millions to populate our perfectly comfortable ice-covered islands. The fact that such a simple solution still eludes politicians and prophets of doom astounds me.

Now that we've sorted out the big issues, it's pretty clear that we're not doomed in 2008. Keep in mind that, because I've just identified the irony of our fate as a race, it'll probably just turn around to bite us in the ass, as irony does.



DAVID
JOHNSTON

counterpoint

'Doomed' is such a strong word, Mikael. If you want to skive away from such harsh, foreboding language, we can just rephrase the opening thesis to state that "the human race will be *fucked* in 2008." Because we really are, in so very many ways.

I like to think of my global warming education as being instructed by the best of sources: books, seminars, protests, and the presumably 100-per-cent-factually-accurate 2004 flick *The Day After Tomorrow*. I think it's safe to say that, within the next year or so, Mother Nature is just going to snap like the fastidious bitch she is and whimsically destroy the northern hemisphere with giant superstorms. And the only way any of us will survive this is by being as young and pretty as Jake Gyllenhaal.

As for overpopulation, look, if all the people in China or Africa wanted to move to Canada (which is doubtful, given the previously discussed superstorms they've got immunity from in their home countries), then they would've done so already. I'm sure they've got other reasons. Maybe their food is better. Perhaps they like their temperate climates better than our eternal damnation of frigid winter. Or it could just be that they plain don't like Canadians.

The point is, if the survival of the human race is dependent on our ability to welcome other cultures into our lives and share what we have with these impoverished folk, then, yeah, we're fucked.

Humanity is evolving technologically faster than we are genetically. If I was watching *Humans: The Movie* and saw how fast these idiots were growing, I'd just shake my head and sip my Sprite, absolutely positive that their foolhardiness would come right back around and kick them in the tuchus.

And let's say that, by some miracle, we learn to work out all of our problems, save the environment, find magical solutions to overcrowding, settle political debates, and so on until we're living in a utopian society—we're still going to be doomed. The last species to inhabit the Earth in such a harmonious manner was the dinosaurs—and they were pretty easygoing, if the early '90s sitcom of the same name is any indicator.

They mostly respected the environment (except for their deep involvement with the production of fossil fuels) and settled their territorial debates the sensible way: by eating each other. Despite all of this, they were still wiped out by a giant asteroid.

Now, it's true that this has come up for humanity before—specifically, in *Armageddon*—but if we have to stake our future on Ben Affleck's oil-mining prowess, well, we've got even less of a chance than the earlier culture-sharing analogy.

Relax if you want, Mikael, but when the human race implodes this year, I'll be there waiting, and then who'll have the last laugh? Nobody, that's who.





"Thank you, thank you, thank you! You can't imagine how this changed my life and stress levels. I feel like a ton of bricks has been lifted off my chest and I can breathe now."

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I'm finally turning life around



PAUL
KNOECHEL

I'm excited. No, more than excited. I'm amped up; I'm revved; I'm stoked. I'm excitable like I've just done four lines of coke, and for once that isn't the reason I'm so jazzed. The new semester is here, and this year it's going to be different.

I can feel it—no, more than that: I can taste it. I'm going to get back in shape, get better grades, and just clean up my act. *This* is the semester. Sure, I've said that before, but I've got it all planned out.

First, no more oversleeping. None of that. It's a year for change, and I'm changing. I'm not going to wake up with just enough time to get to school. I'm not going to skip breakfasts or showers anymore. No way. I'm going to get up early, have time for a good breakfast, a decent shower, and then a little bit of studying—plus some sit ups because I'm going to wake up *that* early, and time won't be problem. Of course, I'm not going to do this in the first month. I mean, you don't really need to get to class *right* on time at the beginning of the semester, and there's nothing to study this early anyway. I'm also not going to do it right when I get back from Reading Week because I'll need some time to adjust coming back from vacation. And it isn't that



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MIKE OTTO

FILTH WIZARD NO MORE! This year I triumph over my self-imposed mediocrity.

feasible when I'm doing midterms or finals or term papers. But the rest of the semester, damn am I going to get an early start.

Also, no more cramming. I don't need to cram if I study beforehand. And there's always plenty of time to study at night and on the weekends. And that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to make sure to study like a fiend then. But I can't start too early on weeknights. I mean, I'll have just gotten back from school, so I'll need to unwind, check Facebook, and watch a *Simpsons* rerun or two.

But right after that, studying is the name of the game—unless of course there's something really good on TV

or I rent a movie or my friends are playing *Halo* online. But other than that, I'll totally be studying. Especially on the weekends. Not too early, though, because I'll need to sleep in after having been out drinking the night before. And not too late, either, because I need to party with my boys. But for the midday, when I'm not eating, making plans, or catching just a little bit more TV, I'm studying.

Yep, this semester is sure going to be a different one for me. With a plan to keep me on track and resolve to complement it, I'm going to be a different university student, no doubt about it. I can taste it—no, more than that: I can *feel* it.

Ignoring death won't alter the inevitable

Only by addressing the fear of our own mortality can we hope to overcome it



SARAH
MALIK

As a child, I watched two deaths in quick succession: my mother's from leukemia and that of a childhood friend, who was only seven, from paint poisoning. The swiftness and ugliness of their deaths made my parents' old answer to my incessant toddler question, "what is the purpose of life?"—to share toys with friends and be good to people—hollow and useless.

Their response was glib and pithy, comforting in its simplicity, but it also seemed to me a desperate clutch at a buoy, an attempt to avoid something that seemed to be sucking at us constantly: our deaths, inevitable, looming. In light of the two deaths, it became clear to me that being good to others—that desperate and hasty moral injunction—was a hope that perhaps if we joined ourselves together in this massive, dark, foaming sea, we could forget, and thus escape, death. Now that I reflect on it, that simple answer seems to be a nouveau-Marxist opiate, throwing a shroud on reality rather than illuminating it.

I've been caught in the midst of an existential crisis lately, asking myself that same question which I haven't asked since I was a child. What is the purpose of life? The queer disconnection from time and the dislocation from reality brought on by exams amplifies that gnawing at the truth. It's

as if I want to dunk my head in water and see the nature of the vortex gnashing at my ankles underneath. Yet this question is one that we are encouraged not to ask. Which seems stupid. People will inevitably respond: the purpose of life is different for a Papa New Guinea tribesman and a university student—it's relative. But, ultimately, we all die, so the varied responses based on the life conditions of different people must face the same single horror. The Papa New Guinea tribesman will die; the university student will die.

Now instead of the question of death asserting predominance in our consciousness as it did many centuries ago, death has been exiled; the problems of life now sway our thought.

Everything in our lives is designed to mask the one thing that's absolutely certain and inevitable and at the same time what's most uncertain—we could die tomorrow; we could die in an accident or from a snake bite—and uncontrollable. We enter into relationships, and symbolically we hold hands with another in the ocean that is life; we tread the water with the combined strength of two, and so the action that we must all universally perform, staying afloat, becomes more facile, even further unnoticeable.

Now, instead of the question of death asserting predominance in our consciousness as it did many centuries ago, death has been exiled; the problems of life now sway our thought. Something strange has happened: degrees and grades and men and women and Gucci shoes are "worth dying for" and hence are imbued with the death instinct, trivializing actual death, postponing it, banishing it from our thought.

I'm reminded of Victor Frankenstein creating his monster out of the dissecting room and the slaughterhouse. What he created was life, but it only brought death—of Victor's loved ones and, ultimately, his own. I can't help but feel that our reliance on all that is ultimately unimportant and has been exalted brings, by exiling death, some new kind of death: the death of something in us, of a realization that ought to be there to make our lives meaningful. In this way, though living, there's something of the charnel in us.

When my friend died at the hospital two days after exposure to his freshly painted house, he—that mocking, laughing, spaghetti-loving boy—had disappeared without sharing his toys with me. It didn't matter. What struck me even then, when he waved at me through the hospital window while I sat on the bench outside, was that he knew he was dying, and in the face of that, everything became irrelevant. This isn't, and wasn't for him, a nihilistic realization; rather, it was an acceptance of the knowledge that he had come to an end, as we will all.

We ought to respect our life and, gathering courage, look under the water to face death, alone.



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